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LD2806122588 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Fall of Shatila—The fall of Shatila Camp to fighters of the Fatah "Provisional Command" (the faction led by Abu Musa) was confirmed by Beirut radio, which said these forces took control of all positions in the camp formerly held by supporters of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

A spokesman for the Abu Musa group announced that 210 'Arafat supporters were evacuated from the camp, 40 more joined their opponents, and less than 40 were detained.

A convoy carrying evacuees from Shatila was prevented from reaching Sidon by militiamen of the Popular Nasirite Organization, AFP reported, noting that Fatah officials were holding contacts with Sidon leaders on the issue.

A PLO Executive Committee statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio viewed with "contempt and repugnance the victory that guns, missiles, and tanks have scored against the dead bodies of the Shatila children and women, and against the camp's incinerated remains."

Stressing that the PLO did everything possible to avoid being dragged into "marginal battles" with the Syrian authorities, the statement contended that the storming of the camp was part of a "black political plan" against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The PLO appealed to its "brothers and friends" to intervene with the Syrian command and halt the fighting, the statement said, but despite "commendable efforts" by the Libyan, Algerian, Saudi, and Soviet leaders, "the insistence on implementing the scheme foiled their good efforts."

In a related development, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio reported that 'Arafat has sent an urgent message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev dealing with the "grave developments" in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. The PFLP, DFLP, Palestinian Communist Party, and Palestine Liberation Front have blamed Abu Musa's faction for the inter-Palestinian fighting, according to Beirut radio.

Other Developments—Political sources cited by Voice of Lebanon predicted that Syrian troops will enter the Iqlim al-Kharrub area shortly, and the radio noted that the Progressive Socialist Party has ordered its cadres to stop carrying weapons in the area.

In eastern Lebanon, Israeli troops withdrew from 'Ayn 'Ata, near Rashayya, while Syrian troops again clashed with Hizballah gunmen in the Ba'labakk area, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces launched an attack in the Darband-i Khan area of the northern front and deployed chemical weapons before being forced to retreat, according to an IRGC statement broadcast by Tehran radio.

The statement claimed that IRGC anti-aircraft units downed an Iraqi plane in the offensive, in which "thousands" of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Iranian forces shelled the suburbs of Qal'at Dizah, killing and wounding civilians, INA reported.

Ma'sud Rajavi, head of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, has asked for UN observers to question Iranian POW's captured in the Mehran offensive, INA reported. The observers should seek "clarifications" of Iranian claims that Iraqi troops took part in the attack and used chemical weapons, Rajavi said. More than 1,500 Iranian troops were taken captive in the battle for Mehran, INA added.

Israel

Relations With Japan—The Japanese foreign minister's policy of linking an improvement in bilateral relations with movement in the peace process is an "unacceptable new element" in Israeli-Japanese relations which Israel must fight. Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir told THE JERUSALEM POST.

Arrangement With Romania—HA'ARETZ claimed that the United States has given "tacit" approval to an arrangement whereby Israel will allow Romanian wood and glass products to be imported and stamped with a "made in Israel" seal before being shipped to the United States.

This special trade arrangement is linked with agreements on the passage of Jewish immigrants from the USSR through Romania, the paper indicated.

Territories—The IDF denied claims that soldiers used hypodermic needles to intimidate residents of the Al-Am'ari refugee camp, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the army's investigation showed that the charge was made by a drug addict. The IDF also denied charges that soldiers smashed television sets in the camp.

New Party—A new party will compete in the Knesset elections on a program advocating the "transfer" of the inhabitants of the territories to Arab countries, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The party is called "The Movement of Eretz Yisra'el Loyalists" and is led by Rehav'am Ze'evi.

Syria

U.S. and Israeli intelligence services "fabricated" the report that the PRC plans to sell intermediate-range surface-to-surface missiles to Syria, a Damascus radio commentary contended.

Blaming Israel's "policy of force" for the continuing tension in the Middle East, the radio said that as an independent state with territories still occupied by Israel, Syria has the right to defend itself in "all possible ways."

A TISHRIN editorial cited by SANA criticized the recent article by the PLO's Bassam Abu Sharif, claiming that it "blatantly contradicts the trends of the uprising" and noting that "nationalist" forces have seen it as a continuation of the policy of "deviation and surrender."

PLO and the United States

Yasir 'Arafat has expressed readiness to embark on "peace procedures" and meet with U.S. officials in any European or Arab capital in preparation for an international conference, the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD disclosed in a report cited by WAKH.

The paper also published a statement by Bassam Abu Sharif, 'Arafat's adviser, calling on the U.S. Administration to take steps toward opening a direct dialogue with the PLO, WAKH noted.

Another appeal for the United States to begin direct contacts with the PLO was made by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad during talks with visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, KUNA reported.

Egypt

"Violent clashes" erupted between security forces and members of Islamic groups in the 'Ayn Shams and Imbabah areas when security forces stormed five mosques following Friday prayers 24 June, AL-WAFD reported.

The worshippers were attacked with tear gas and gas bombs, the report stated, and more than 350 were arrested. The incidents sparked a protest demonstration in Al-Minya in which "dozens" of Muslims were arrested.

The Islamic groups issued a statement stressing that demonstrations will continue against the government policies.

Libya

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and a Libyan delegation arrived in Algiers 27 June, Tripoli radio reported. Jallud, in an arrival statement carried by JANA, stressed the importance of Maghreb unity.

The visit will culminate in an "integrated project" that will form the basis of bilateral, regional, and Arab unity, Jallud said.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi recently received the Jerusalem mufti, who praised Al-Qadhdhafi as a defender and supporter of the Palestinian cause, JANA noted.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin guerrillas have seized Kowt-e 'Ashrow, "capital" of Vardak Province, AFP reported, citing the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA). The town is located about 25 miles from Kabul.

The ANA report also claimed that mujahidin control "the whole of Vardak Province." Diplomatic and mujahidin sources, however, were unable to confirm the ANA report, which gave no date for the town's fall and did not specify which rebel group had seized the town, AFP added.

AFP further reported that mujahidin blew up a "vital bridge" on the Kabul river and seized a "major portion" of the Jalalabad-Kabul road, according to resistance sources.

"Several hundred" rebels have controlled a 19-mile stretch of the road since 23 June, the sources said, and a government convoy from Jalalabad recently failed to retake the road.

AFP cited diplomatic sources as saying a "major assault" on Jalalabad is expected when Soviet troops complete their withdrawal from the town.

The Afghan charge in Islamabad was summoned to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry and handed a protest note after two Afghan Army tank shells fell in Baluchistan, killing one and injuring two, Islamabad radio reported.

Pakistan complained to the UN office in Kabul about the 25 June Peshawar hotel bomb blast in which 14 were killed, the radio added. The complaint called the blast another example of the "campaign of subversion unleashed by the Kabul regime."

In Kabul, the Meli Shura (National Assembly) passed a resolution asking the government to continue its "all-sided attempts for the complete realization" of the Geneva accords, BAKHTAR noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Euro-Arab Dialogue Resumes at Bonn Meeting

JN2406192888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Bonn]

[Text] The Euro-Arab dialogue resumed in the FRG Chancellery in Bonn this afternoon at the ministerial level. This dialogue had been suspended by the Arabs in 1986 in solidarity with Syria following the political crisis between Syria and the United Kingdom and the coercive measures some EEC countries had adopted. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the current chairman of the Arab group, headed the Arab delegation at the lengthy meeting. Beside him were the Sudanese and Somali foreign ministers and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. The European side is headed by FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Beside him were the Danish and Greek foreign ministers and EC Commissioner Claude Cheysson.

The European side agreed to the agenda proposed by the Arabs. There are eight points on the agenda. The first point deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question; the second with the Lebanese crisis; the third with the Iraq-Iran war and the dangers it poses if allowed to continue; the fourth with international terrorism; the fifth with measures taken against Syria and Libya; the sixth deals with the impact of the establishment of the single European market in 1992 on the economies of Arab countries, particularly the Maghreb; the seventh point concerns the Arab community in Europe; and the last point is on the general committee and the review of the activities of the special committees stemming from the Euro-Arab dialogue.

Genscher delivered a speech on behalf of the European countries. He called for reinvigorating a multifaceted dialogue and viewed peace in the Middle East as a guarantee for peace in Europe. He also said that economic progress in the region is vital for European economic revival. While he pointed out Israel's right to exist, he emphasized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and called on Israel to respect Article 4 of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians during war. He also called for achieving an agreement in Lebanon that will satisfy all the Lebanese parties and for holding Lebanese presidential elections in accordance with the Lebanese Constitution and on time.

Minister al-Shar' delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab group. He stressed the need to encourage dialogue, establish it firmly, and overcome obstacles facing it, particularly if intentions were sincere. He said that the Arabs were working toward security and stability in the region and that Israel is the one obstructing this. Al-Shar' stressed the need to hold an effective international peace conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, under UN auspices and in accordance with its resolutions.

It became evident during the meeting that there were many points of agreement between the Arabs and the Europeans. The European countries encourage the convocation of an international conference and Cheysson spoke about European assistance totalling 40 million European units of account to the Palestinian people for confronting the arbitrary Israeli measures. On Lebanon, the two sides were in agreement on the need to attain national accord and safeguard Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty. They also agreed on the need for a complete Israeli withdrawal and the deployment of UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon] as far as the international borders in southern Lebanon.

The European side stressed that it distinguishes between the Syrian presence in Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and between the Israeli occupation of parts of Lebanon.

With respect to the Iraq-Iran war, the European viewpoint was largely identical with the Arab position adopted by the Amman summit and confirmed by the Algiers summit. Both sides expressed anxiety over the prolongation of the Iraq-Iran war and over the grave state of affairs in the occupied Arab territories. They also agreed to convene the general committee of the dialogue as soon as possible, and stressed the need to overcome obstacles in the way of re-establishing Arab-European dialogue.

On another level, I have learned that during the Syrian-FRG meeting this morning, Genscher and Al-Shar' agreed on the importance of promoting bilateral relations in all fields. The two sides also reviewed the current situation in the Middle East and the foundations for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

A meeting was also held in the FRG Chancellery in Bonn between Genscher and the seven-member Arab committee for bolstering the uprising. PLO Representative 'Abdallah al-Franji participated in the meeting. This is the first official meeting between Minister Genscher and a PLO representative. Several Arab diplomatic sources say this meeting was made possible due to Syrian efforts.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Sends Message to Gorbachev

JN2706175688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1617 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, sent an urgent message to CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev last night dealing with the grave developments in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps as a result of the escalation

of the destructive attacks and the extensive shelling aimed at destroying life in these camps. The message was handed to the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia when Brother Abu 'Ammar received him in Tunis last night.

'Arafat on Toronto Summit, Reagan, Dukakis
AU2506145188 Rome ANSA in English 1030 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, June 25— The stances adopted on the Palestinian question by leaders of industrialised nations at the recent Toronto summit received positive comment from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat, in an interview to appear in the forthcoming issue of the ESPRESSO news magazine.

"The willingness of the group of seven" major Western industrialised powers, 'Arafat said, "is certainly a step forwards".

According to 'Arafat, this new international outlook on the Palestinian question is due to the recent troubles in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and GAza Strip, Arab territories controlled by Israel since 1967. In protests which erupted there last December, some 200 stone-throwing Palestinians have died in clashes with Israeli troops.

The new outlook has failed to change 'Arafat's opinion of United States' President Ronald Reagan whom he described in the interview as "the worst president of all times for the Palestinian cause."

No better, in the PLO chief's opinion, is Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, whose recent announcement that he would transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was said by 'Arafat to be "a fatal error."

The PLO leader confirmed that he was willing to talk to Israeli premier Yitzhaq Shamir any time "but only within the context of an international peace conference."

Khalaf Says Abu Sharif Statements 'Deviationist'
NC2806123288 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Tunis, June 28 (AFP)—A senior PLO official Tuesday dismissed as "political banter" recent statements by PLO advisor Bassam Abu Sharif that the organization was ready to negotiate directly with Israel at an international conference.

"Suggesting that these declarations conform to resolutions of the Palestine National Council (PNC) is an attempt to do harm to sacred principles and to justify concessions," Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, said in a statement to the press here.

He urged an end to "Bassam Abu Sharif's political banter and his deviationist policies."

His remarks constituted the first reaction by an influential moderate Palestinian leader to Mr. Abu Sharif's proposals, which had previously been denounced by more militant Palestinians.

In a statement made public last week and partially published by THE WASHINGTON TIMES, Mr. Abu Sharif said Palestinian leaders were ready for direct negotiations with Israel's Likud and Labor blocs as soon as an international conference was convened.

Mr. Abu Sharif later said his statements reflected Palestine Liberation Organization policy.

The declaration provoked international interest and regional controversy, and according to Abu Iyad, "inflicted harm by raising the specter of profound divisions within the Palestinian ranks." [passage omitted]

PLO Official Praises Abu Sharif Document
JN2706191288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Jun 88 p 16

[Text] Tunis— In a statement to AL-BAYAN, PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has said the document by Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's press adviser, is in agreement with the PLO's platform. This document is a true interpretation of the resolutions adopted by the PNC's 18th unionist session held in Algiers, he added.

Sulayman al-Najjab said the PLO, since it adopted the multiphase platform for a settlement, has been struggling to establish a Palestinian state on part of the Palestinian territory. This means a Palestinian state will be established alongside Israel. He pointed out this is closer to a geographic talk than to a political talk.

Al-Najjab added: "When we talk about an international conference for peace with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO and Israel, we actually admit there will be Palestinian-Israeli negotiations; namely, negotiations between the PLO and those who are occupying Palestinian territory and disavowing the Palestinians' right to self- determination. All of this, namely, a Palestinian state as well as an international conference and its specifications, is from resolutions issued by the PNC."

In his statement to AL-BAYAN, Al-Najjab expressed the belief that the PLO, following the great achievements realized by the uprising, is in a strong position on Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. He said Abu Sharif's remarks on the PLO's readiness to hold direct negotiations with Israel within the framework of an international conference have touched on a ripe issue. It is important to tackle this issue through a clear stand by the PLO Executive Committee and not through press articles, he added.

On the other hand, a Palestinian source yesterday said the Abu Sharif document, which contained an acceptance by the PLO of the presence of two states on Palestinian territory, was carefully prepared in coordination with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The document demonstrates the PLO's good intentions concerning peace.

Al-Hasan Welcomes Suggestion on Talks With U.S.

NC2506121388 Cairo MENA in English 1158 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Tunis, June 25, (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, member of the Central Committee of Fatah Movement and a top aide to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, today welcomed Egypt's suggestion to hold a dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO leaders in Cairo to get acquainted with the Palestinian views on peace in the area.

In statements to MENA here, Al-Hasan said that on receiving an official invitation from the U.S. the PLO will study it closely.

Referring to the recent Shultz's visit to the West Bank, he said that when Shultz tried to hold a dialogue with some Palestinian figures there they turned his proposal down and told him to hold the dialogue with the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

It is to be mentioned that Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met in the middle of this month with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the situation in the Middle East.

Urges Israel To Recognize PLO

NC2706130288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Tunis, 27 Jun (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and an adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, has called on Israel to recognize the PLO, adding that any disregard for this matter constitutes disregard for the prerequisites of peace.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Hasan stressed that the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories will be stepped up. He said international politics and the great powers respond only to hot issues. He said the continuation of the uprising keeps the issue boiling and brings it to the attention of the international community. Moreover, it is the only way to ensure that the Palestinian people are protected from Israeli retaliation in the occupied homeland.

In his statement, Al-Hasan denied the Algiers summit had blocked the road to peace opportunities in the area. He noted that the resolutions of the summit were based on those adopted at Fes and Rabat, which stated that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He pointed out that the Fes summit proposals are clear and they alone contain a definite plan for action for peace. He maintained that those who seek to evade recognition of the PLO and the Palestinian people view everything as a factor obstructing peace.

Al-Hasan went on to say that peace without justice is worthless and that one of the axioms of justice where the Palestinian cause is concerned is the recognition of the Palestinian people. It is their cause and there will never be peace in the area if this fact and this people are ignored. How can we achieve peace if we ignore the Palestinian people and their cause? he asked.

In previous remarks to a MENA correspondent, Al-Hasan invited the United States to hold a direct dialogue with the PLO. He affirmed that when the United States (?accepts) the invitation the PLO will study the issue seriously and positively.

Reportage on Inter-Palestinian Fighting

Cease-Fire Announced

JN2506132688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] A short while ago, Lebanese security sources said that cautious calm prevailed in the Palestinian camps of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah in Beirut and the southern suburb this morning, where intermittent clashes have been taking place for 8 weeks.

The Fatah dissidents' sources have stressed that the fighters of Fatah-The Uprising, led by Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] have announced a unilateral cease-fire last night and that they are waiting for Fatah fighters to leave the Shatila camp to entrench this cease-fire.

A responsible source in the Fatah Movement announced that the Fatah Movement does not want fighting and that it desires to put an end to the tragedy of the inhabitants, who have all left the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps.

Leaders Hold Talks

LD2606100888 Tripoli JANA in English 0848 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY— JANA has learnt that the nationalist command of the revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland and the command of Fatah held a working session to review the latest developments in the popular revolution lead by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine and ways to support it.

Also, JANA has learnt that measures were taken during this session between the nationalist command and the PLO to put an end to the fighting between Palestinian brothers in the same trench and the giving up of positions in a peaceful manner.

Syria Blamed for Fighting

JN2706162488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] A short while ago, the PLO Executive Committee issued a statement holding Syria responsible for the battles taking place in the Shatila camp. The statement, which was distributed by the PLO Executive Committee, said: Out of our concern over the uprising in the occupied territories, we have avoided being dragged into marginal battles with the Syrian authorities at a time when we were expecting Syria's potentialities and resources to be placed in the militant pan-Arab trench.

The statement, which is the first reaction by the PLO Executive Committee to the Shatila battles, said the PLO called on several Arab brothers and friends in the world to intervene with the Syrian command and work to stop this tragedy. Among the leaders who were contacted are Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and the Soviet leaders.

'Military Source' on Fighting

JN2706173588 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1623 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] A responsible Palestinian military source has affirmed that extensive contacts among Tunis, Algiers, Tripoli, and some Arab capitals have been under way since yesterday morning to deal with the grave situation as a result of the continued artillery shelling of what remains of the Palestinian camps in the Beirut area.

He added that the mad and intensive shelling of the Shatila and Burj al- Barajinah camps have been continuing for 2 months from areas controlled by the Syrian Army. Everyone knows that the Syrian forces completely control West Beirut, the Sports City, and Jallul's land, from which the fires of hell are coming despite the Palestinian leadership's appeals through three cables to President al-Asad, as well as the efforts exerted by Brother Colonel al-Qadhdhfi and President Chadli Bendjedid, the last of which was during the 24-hour visit by Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to the two countries.

Concluding his statement, the source said that the goal of the continuation of the aggression and the criminal shelling of the camps is to end the Palestinian presence in Beirut and Lebanon, distract attention from the crimes being committed by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, hide and stab the blessed and heroic uprising of our people, and deal a blow to the positive and important results of the summit of the uprising in Algiers.

PLO Issues Statement

JN2706192388 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1754 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Statement by the PLO Executive Committee— date not given]

[Text] After 6 years of the heroic steadfastness of the Shatila camp in defense of our people's rights to free expression and to independent decisionmaking, and after 6 years of legendary steadfastness in the face of the Zionist invasion, the repeated massacres, and the protracted siege that the various forces of apostasy and conspiracy have imposed, the Shatila camp has become one of the most brilliant symbols of our protracted national struggle, which has culminated in the stage of the great popular uprising in our occupied homeland.

Out of our concern over the uprising and to maintain its revolutionary momentum, we have avoided being dragged into marginal battles with the Syrian authorities in areas which are far from the main struggle arena in the occupied territories and at a time when we were expecting Syria's potentialities and resources to be placed in the militant pan-Arab trench. We did everything in our power in terms of patience and concern regarding dialogue with the Syrian command to avoid being dragged into a marginal battle. Many attempts have been made to drag us into this battle through recourse to all the tools of destruction and death and the treasonous puppets which our people's deeply rooted militant traditions disavow to deliver the coup de grace to any rattle in the throats of the citizens in the camp, to the stone debris, and the columns of dust that still exist in the camp.

From this premise, the PLO addressed itself to several Arab brothers and friends in the world, appealing to them to intervene with the Syrian command to halt this tragedy. In spite of the continuous and commendable efforts exerted by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, President Chadli Bendjedid, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and the Soviet leaders, the insistence on implementing the scheme has foiled their good efforts.

The PLO believes that the insistence on storming the camp under many masks, epithets, and names is part of a black political plan to deal a blow to the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and an attempt to abort the positive results of the Algiers uprising summit and stab the blessed uprising in the back.

While we view with contempt and repugnance the victory that guns, missiles, and tanks have scored against the dead bodies of Shatila children and women and against the camp's incinerated remains, we appeal to all the conscientious forces in our Arab nation to be more alert and attentive and to express anxiety over the fate

being prepared for our Palestinian people in Lebanon, over the conspiracy against the uprising, and over the disfigurement of the image of the Palestinian national struggle.

All this dictates that the Palestinian forces must enhance their national unity within the framework of the PLO, our people's sole and legitimate representative. The Arab nationalist forces must prepare themselves for confronting this big conspiracy, given that it poses a threat to the Arab national liberation movement and to its pan-Arab struggle. We pledge to our people and nation that we will pursue the struggle and escalate the heroic uprising until victory. The name of the Shatila camp will always remain an incentive for struggle to attain freedom. It will also remain one of the eternal symbols of contemporary Palestinian and Arab history.

The heroism of the brave fighters—men, children, and women who have defended Shatila until the last bullet and the last drop of blood—will remain an unparalleled example of steadfastness and heroism in history. Our people, wherever they may be and in all their places of residence, will continue to be guided by these heroic feats and will teach them to their children, generation after generation.

O sons of our people in the occupied homeland, O stonethrowing children, young men, and women in every camp, village, and city in Palestine, the continuation of your struggle, steadfastness, and confrontation of the Zionist forces of occupation and your defense of our people's right to freedom and independence is the national reply to those who conspire against you, against Shatila, and against all the camps of your people and their presence in Lebanon. Enhance your steadfastness and escalate your confrontation of the occupation. In this lies the defeat of the conspiracy against your cause and your people, wherever they may be. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee

'Sharp Differences' Among 'Uprising' Leaders

NC2406195488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] A Palestinian statement distributed in Beirut today indicates there are differences among the leaders of the uprising in the occupied territories. The statement says these differences have resulted from the absence of a responsible central command abroad.

Algeria

Bendjedid on Arab Summit, Other Issues

PM2606111588 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Jun 88 pp19-23

[Interview with President Chadli Bendjedid by Milhim Karam on 18 June in Algiers]

[Text] Karam: You played a leading part in the success of the Algiers summit conference. Do you intend to play a similar part in resolving peripheral Arab differences such as the Iraqi-Syrian differences?

Bendjedid: The challenges and risks facing the common Arab destiny make it necessary to cement Arab solidarity for the sake of effective and fruitful Arab action. That is why Algeria makes the purification of the Arab atmosphere and elimination of the causes of disruption one of its main concerns. It is for that reason that Algeria has spared no effort in strengthening the fraternal bonds between brothers in both the Arab east and the Arab Maghreb, and there has been a full response to its efforts.

Karam: There have been reports that the restoration of relations with Egypt is imminent and of steps to normalize these relations. Will there be an exchange of ambassadors soon between Cairo and Algiers?

Bendjedid: Everyone knows that we have no particular problems with sister Egypt. The proof is that we have not objected to the states which maintained relations with Egypt just as we have not protested against the states which restored their ties with Egypt recently. That is because we believe that such matters come under the sovereignty and constitutional practices of each state. Although it was Egypt which severed its relations with Algeria, we have demonstrated our goodwill toward Egypt and its present leadership on several occasions—for example, through my meetings with President Husni Mubarak in broad daylight and in public in Addis Ababa. As you also well know, I stopped in Luxor on my way back to Algeria from Addis Ababa.

Despite what is repeated in some circles from time to time against the interests of the two fraternal peoples, I say again that there are no problems between the two fraternal countries.

Karam: Mr President, it has been confirmed by everyone that your wise conduct of the summit sessions and lobby meetings, and your velvet touch, were major factors in the success of the summit and in the materialization of the desired results. Are you satisfied with these results?

Bendjedid: I believe that devoting a summit conference to support for the uprising was a significant development and a gain for the Palestinian cause. Its importance was augmented by the participation and effective contribution of the vast majority of Arab leaders, which reflects the great importance Arab leaders attach to the central cause—that of the Palestinian people. Algeria is satisfied with the summit results.

The outcome was an expression of the Arab will to support the uprising materially, politically, and in the media to ensure its steadfastness and enable the Palestinian people to continue their struggle until the fulfillment of their objectives and aspirations, namely, repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state on their own national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

On this occasion we should commend what the Arab leaders have achieved at the Algiers summit: arriving at a unified political concept for an international peace conference under UN supervision on the basis of international legitimacy and related UN resolutions confirming complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights. That is why these results are praiseworthy and can be considered an effective force against plans to abort or contain the uprising.

Karam: Are there any attempts to conclude an agreement between Algeria and the EEC and would such a step be taken in the context of the expected Maghreb unity, or separately?

Bendjedid: There can be no doubt that many factors distinguish Algerian-European relations, among them the neighborliness and geographical proximity of the Mediterranean littoral nations, factors which clear the way for cooperation particularly in the economic, technological, cultural, financial, and banking fields and also in safeguarding the security and stability of these nations.

What makes Algeria's relations with the EEC even more special is the fact that there is a large Algerian community—exceeding 1 million—in Europe. Algeria's trade with the EEC is very important. This also applies to all the Arab Maghreb states. Hence the importance of this relationship. As the 12 EEC members prepare to form an integrated economic, financial, and legal entity with unified objectives by 1993 we believe that it is in the common interest of the Arab Maghreb states to form their own integrated economic group, bearing in mind that each one of our countries has similar links with the EEC in the framework of bilateral agreements.

I am confident that with harmony of attitudes and a common destiny and objectives we will be able to strengthen our negotiating position and lay the foundations of fruitful and honest cooperation in the mutual

interests of the two groups—European and Maghreb—that would reflect positively on the security and stability of the whole region, especially the western Mediterranean.

Karam: Algeria played an important part in the crisis of the Kuwaiti airliner Al-Jabiriyah. According to Western media the price of the solution was release of the hijackers. Could you clarify this for us, in response to what the Western media are saying?

Bendjedid: I do not think anyone is unaware of the well-known role played by Algeria in saving many lives which were in danger, or the intensive efforts it exerted for humanitarian reasons and which always produced beneficial results. Everyone knows that the crisis of the Kuwaiti plane was not the first and that Algeria did not volunteer to work for the release of the hostages but did so in response to appeals from the Kuwaiti leadership. The same can be said of the other crises which saw happy endings and were resolved satisfactorily by putting an end to the suffering of detained passengers.

Karam: What is the best form of union (for the Arab Maghreb states)? Would it be something like the EEC or the COMECON (socialist European common market) or the GCC?

Bendjedid: As I was saying, the five Maghreb states have decided to form a committee to devise ways of establishing a rational and gradual process of economic integration and political consultation for the Arab Maghreb region and in the interest of all its peoples.

We believe that Maghreb unity should be achieved on the following principles:

1. A political will to respond clearly to all questions related to fulfillment of common strategic political objectives of all the region's countries.

2. A practical and solid program to enhance trade exchanges, employ all integration capabilities, and carry out joint projects in the interest of the Maghreb market.

3. A definition of the conditions in the region's countries and of the similarities in their consumption and production needs to allow all countries of the region, whenever possible, to take major and steady steps toward economic integration.

Karam: Would a Maghreb union necessitate change in the Maghreb states' development plans, particularly as they have different economic structures and have numerous difficulties?

Bendjedid: Coordination of the economic policies of the Maghreb states should naturally proceed in the context of the development plans of all these states, especially because these plans are drawn up in the light of the development of economic and social activity. It is obvious, therefore, that coordination of the development plans should be an essential concern of all the region's countries, which means that all the fields requiring joint efforts should be identified.

Since all the Maghreb countries have suffered greatly, to varying degrees, from the world economic crisis, the promotion of economic integration and the adoption of a unified attitude to the world economic situation would make these states a harmonious and effective entity in international circles.

Karam: How will you tackle the question of military cooperation—if the Maghreb union aspires to such a level?

Bendjedid: The efforts we have made in building the Arab Maghreb have begun to bear fruit. This is evident in the spirit of amity and accord which has prevailed in the region after the restoration of relations between Tunisia and Libya and between Algeria and Morocco. This paved the way for the first fraternal summit meeting which enabled us to take a new practical step toward building an integrated and united Arab Maghreb, namely the formation of a committee to prepare the ground for joint work, taking into account all the conditions and characteristics of each country, and to draw up a plan for a gradual process of unity based on realism and the lessons of past experiences in this field to prevent failure.

One of the duties of the committee is to lay the foundations of the organizational structures of the various political, economic, cultural, and social aspects of a unified Arab Maghreb to make it a cohesive group able to take its deserved place in the international community and be an element of security and stability in the Arab Maghreb region and a strong support for the defense of the Arab nation's higher interests.

Karam: Did Algeria's role end with the Arab summit's final statement or did the summit ask Algeria to continue its efforts to ensure implementation of the resolutions?

Bendjedid: There can be no doubt that their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses are interested in collective and joint efforts in defense of Arab rights and the Palestinian people to enable them to regain their usurped rights.

Karam: Algeria, under your leadership, has played a central role in Arab reconciliation efforts. How do you assess the results of the inter-Palestinian reconciliation efforts?

Bendjedid: I already answered this question when we talked about peripheral Arab differences. I assure you that we will spare no effort in doing our pan-Arab duty whenever necessary.

Karam: You congratulated Iraq on its military victory in al-Faw and you approved the Algiers summit statement which supported Iraq and condemned Iran. Does this mean that your distinguished and special relations with Iran are at an end? Also, what about your efforts to bridge the gap in the views between Iraq and Iran with the aim of ending the war? Have these efforts stopped completely or are you still making such endeavors, but not openly?

And finally, do you believe that the Algiers agreement concluded between Iraq and Iran under the Shah is still valid as a basis for solving the problems which led to the war between the two countries? (I asked these three questions separately but President Bendjedid suggested merging them because they are interlinked, and he gave one reply to all three.)

Bendjedid: Everyone knows that Algeria's policy is based on respect for international law and tradition, on honest equal cooperation and good neighborliness, on the nonuse of force in the settlment of disputes between states favoring settlement through negotiation, rejection of the occupation of the territory of others, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states, and respect for other nations' choice of their own political and economic systems.

It is in the light of these principles that Algeria, since the outbreak of that war, has made attempts and exerted efforts to persuade the two parties to the conflict, Iraq and Iran, to stop the fighting and resort to dialogue and negotiation to end this destructive war and ensure, for both sides, the exercise of national sovereignty within their own internationally recognized borders, and pursue a policy of good neighborliness and good use of their material and human resources.

To answer your question as to whether the Algiers agreement is valid as a basis of a solution to the problem, what matters most to us is seeing an end to the war with peace and amity prevailing in the region, through negotiation and on the basis of international legitimacy.

Karam: What future do you expect for the Saharan [Democratic Arab] Republic after your reconciliation with the Moroccan head of state? What is the truth of the reports claiming that the direct cause of your dispute with Morocco and your support for the Polisario was your wish to secure an outlet for Algeria to the Atlantic ocean? (Here again President Bendjedid opted for merging the two questions, which I did.)

Bendjedid: We view the restoration of relations with sister Morocco as a significant contribution to the creation of a permanent atmosphere of peace, good neighborliness, Maghreb regional cooperation, and support for the unity of Arab ranks, and also as an encouraging step toward finding a just and final solution to the Western Sahara dispute between the brothers in the Kingdom of Morocco and the SDAR.

In that context, Algeria will do everything it can to speed up the settlement of the dispute according to the wishes of Africa and the international community and the aspirations of the two Moroccan and Saharan peoples.

Karam: How do you assess the future of the gas industry in Algeria in the wake of the position taken by the European states, particularly France, regarding the prices of Algerian products?

Bendjedid: The far-reaching international changes in the field of energy in recent years do not allow a clear vision of long-term energy policies. The gas trade in the coming years will, at any rate, be a strategic motive force in our international economic relations. To a large extent it will determine the general balance of these relations, especially industrial and financial relations. Whenever we reach agreement with any party on gas our economic relationship with them develops, grows, and becomes more stable in the medium and long terms.

Karam: Last year Algeria marked the silver jubilee of its independence. What are its new achievements?

Bendjedid: It may be difficult to give a quick resume of all the achievements. So I will just tell you about our main achievements.

Over the past years we have been uninterruptedly giving the mechanism of our political activity and our institutions the qualities of continuity and credibility, motivated in doing so by the will to impose the rule of law everywhere and at all times. I believe that the rule of law has, over time, become a firm tradition and foundation throughout the homeland.

Furthermore, we have been drawing up our policies and programs mainly in accordance with a long-term concept because it is the duty of our generation to leave a beneficial legacy to the next generation to carry the responsibility, and not put any more burdens on its shoulders.

This legacy, as I said earlier, will be in a legislative structure and in institutions characterized by continuity and responsiveness to development requirements and at the same time able to find democratic solutions whatever disputes might arise within society. It will also be able to meet new requirements, defend the people, and maintain the principles of the November revolution.

We have made qualitative and quantitative improvements in all walks of life a main objective which will make it possible for future generations to respond in the best way to the major changes in ideology, technology, and social order in the near future.

Economically, we have tried to make it a fruitful legacy providing good living conditions and the right atmosphere for the development of capabilities and manifestation of social justice and solidarity.

Karam: What are the results of the industrial, agricultural, financial, and commercial reforms and what is the outcome of the policy of independent institutions which encourages individual initiatives?

Bendjedid: The main purpose of the current economic reforms in all fields is to clarify and specify the responsibilities under the law. In the autonomous agricultural sector I have given the producers the freedom of initiative, the responsibility of management, and the right of investment without any administrative interference. And so, the initiative and responsibility of the producers are complete in the domains of investment, production, income, and marketing.

This also applies to the non-agricultural sectors. The national companies and local establishments become share companies subject to economic laws and the market and they discharge all their administrative and management duties through boards of directors representing the interests involved in the production process.

These changes require greater decentralization of the economic establishments, which makes it imperative for the functionaries and the workers to show more personal initiative to ensure continuation of their work, develop their products, and adapt to market conditions.

Karam: Presidential elections will take place in Algeria in the near future. Will President Chadli Bendjedid be asked to serve a new presidential term?

Bendjedid (with obvious modesty): Algeria has a system, a party, and a congress. When it convenes, the congress will choose the person who will shoulder the responsibilities of secretary general. The FLN strugglers are the ones who will nominate the party's secretary general for the presidency of the Republic. It is therefore impossible to answer your question in advance on a matter the discussion of which is still premature. This matter falls under the juridsdiction of the FLN congress.

Karam: When will the congress convene?

Bendjedid: At the end of this year. The Central Committee will fix a date for its session.

Karam: In the light of the Algiers summit conference results, how do you view Lebanon's future?

Bendjedid: I think that, more than anyone else, you are aware of the efforts made by Algeria to promote national accord between brothers in Lebanon. We will continue our efforts toward that end hoping that wisdom and the higher interest of the homeland will prevail, and take precedence over, all other considerations. We hope for the return of amity between all groups of the Lebanese people.

We hope for the restoration of security and stability to Lebanon with all efforts geared toward the liberation of the parts usurped by Israel and the defense of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity. With goodwill and honest resolve, everything will return to normal and Lebanon will take its place in the Arab family.

Karam: Your efforts are appreciated and have produced positive results in Lebanon. Are there any plans—do you expect new meetings between Presidents Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad?

Bendjedid: I cannot say in advance, but the atmosphere which prevailed at the summit and the meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil make us optimistic about the future. We believe that other meetings would be in the interests of Lebanon and Syrian-Lebanese relations.

Karam: Is there any internal opposition in Algeria, and are there political prisoners?

Bendjedid: There is not a single political prisoner (he said firmly and happily). As regards opposition, we cannot say that there is opposition but rather that there are individuals who express their own views, which they have every right to do. This cannot be described as opposition but rather as expression of different opinions. The fact that there is only one party in Algeria does not prevent freedom of expression. People's views are published and they criticize certain sectors. They are entitled to do that. We cannot hide anything from the public, especially if it is something to do with decisive internal affairs.

Any issue concerning the decisive questions of the Algerian people is referred to the popular level to enable the people, through the existing institutions and mechanisms, to express their opinion before a political decision is made. These methods have given the Algerian people satisfaction and the feeling that they play a part in the decisionmaking process. I will mention as an example the issue of the hour—education. The Central Committee could have met and adopted decisions on this matter but we preferred to submit the question to the people first.

A conference of professors, teachers, and all concerned with the education sector was held recently. They, who know their affairs better than anyone else, expressed their views on the matter. The Central Committee will meet at the end of the month to discuss this question, which is of crucial importance to future generations, having been enriched by the participation of those directly involved in the subject and by those in charge of implementating policy in that field. In brief, we are always trying, to the best of our ability, to gain the approval of the vast majority of the people on important issues.

Karam: Was what happened at the Arab and Maghreb summits reassuring to Your Excellency and do you consider it a reward for the efforts you have made?

Bendjedid: Yes, that is what I believe regarding the [Arab] summit conference in general and the Maghreb summit conference in particular. The five-sided meeting was the result of efforts by Algeria and all the Arab Maghreb countries. The meeting was successful because, thank God, we managed to clear the air. We did not wish to be hasty by taking impromptu measures, so we agreed to form a task force representing the five countries. It will hold its first meeting on 13 August in Algiers to be followed by periodic meetings in all the capitals of the Arab Maghreb.

This task force has been instructed to prepare a complete brief covering not only the economic aspect but all aspects of Arab Maghreb unification. This is an opportunity for every country to submit its views and ideas. Putting these views and ideas together we will gradually agree on something and we will continue the dialogue and discussions until we achieve our objective which is building the great Arab Maghreb.

Karam: Will this be the year that will see the end of the Middle East crisis and tragedy?

Bendjedid: It is difficult to answer this question. Today I believe that the Arabs have come out with a clear program for the future and on the question of an international conference and participation by the PLO and the Palestinian people. On the basis of this principle and the unanimous conclusions reached by the Arabs, it can now be said that the ball is in the court of the others. If they want real and durable peace then it could be said that a solution to the problem might be achieved on the basis of the latest Arab summit provisions and resolutions.

If they want peace in accordance with the concept of others then we do not accept such peace at any price. If the others respond to us on this then we Arabs are willing to participate in an international conference. This is the precondition for discussing durable peace.

Karam: Will the ordinary summit conference called for by the custodian of the two holy mosques be delayed?

Bendjedid: I do not exactly know. All I can say is that we agreed to hold an ordinary summit conference but I do not have a specific date. We hope it will be held before the end of the year. I also believe that the ordinary summit will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the custodian of the two holy mosques has agreed in principle. The date will depend on Arab consultations and contacts.

Karam: Was the issue of Egypt raised at the summit conference and, if so, what decisions were made in this connection?

Bendjedid: The issue of Egypt was not raised directly but there was talk in the lobbies about Egypt's return to the Arab League. We are not against Egypt's return to the Arab League, but for that to happen without discussing the causes of its absence from the league could mean that we had wronged the Egyptian people. So, if we were wrong let it be said so, and if not then let us discuss ways of rapprochement. Algeria has no sensitivities on this matter. I have met twice with President Mubarak publicly, and I appreciate and respect him. I stopped over in Egypt before any country had restored its relations with it, which proves that Algeria has no problems with the Egyptian state or with President Mubarak.

Egypt, which severed its relations with the Arab states, wants to restore its relations with Algeria. Fine, but there are accepted procedures in this connection.

Karam: Are the results of the meeting of the two superpowers promising?

Bendjedid: I cannot say that they got results on all the issues they discussed. There may have been points on which there was no full agreement but what matters is that they left the dialogue open.

On the Middle East, I believe that so far they have not formed a firm view on the question of an international conference.

Libya's Jallud, Delegation Arrive 27 Jun

LD2706135988 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Algeria—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud arrived in Algeria this morning, accompanied by the secretary and members of the General People's Committee. A grand reception was accorded Staff Maj Jallud and his delegation, with Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, and Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Politburo and prime minister, at the head of the welcoming party, in addition to a number of Politburo and Central Committee members, as well as various ministers, deputies, and other officials.

Chad

'Informal Meeting' With Libya, Gabon Planned

AB2706124788 Paris AFP in English 1224 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Libreville, June 27 (AFP)—The foreign ministers of Chad, Libya and Gabon are to hold an informal meeting here July 5-7 (?to) pursue contacts over the 15-year territorial dispute between Chad and Libya, an authoritative Gabonese diplomatic source said here Monday.

Gabon is chairman of an ad hoc committee of six countries set up by the Organisation of African Unity to find a settlement for the Aozou Strip, a desert territory in the far north of Chad which Libya has occupied since 1973 under the terms of an unratified treaty dating from colonial times. A ceasefire has been in force since last September.

Next week's parley is to examine the opening of diplomatic relations between Chad and Libya, and build up an atmosphere of trust, the source said. "The belligerents [words indistinct] at one and the same time sit down together around a table and be fighting out in the field," the source commented.

At the last OAU summit in May, the Libyan delegation said Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi now recognised Hissein Habre as president of Chad and wanted to establish diplomatic relations. Until then, [words indistinct] Habre's ousted predecessor Goukouni Oueddei.

The heads of state on the special committee agreed a decision by the OAU General Assembly on ownership of the strip, which is believed to have major uranium deposits, could cause a serious rift in the pan-African body.

Taking the case to the International Court of Justice at the Hague affords the ultimate solution but requires the consent of both parties, the diplomatic source noted. To obtain that joint approval, it was appropriate to bring the two warring parties together at ministerial level to start with, perhaps folowed by a meeting between Mr. Habre and Col. Qadhdhafi, the source said.

Chad's Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif arrived here late Sunday with a message from Mr. Habre for Gabonese President Omar Bongo dealing with next week's ministerial gathering.

Radio Announces Meeting

AB2706131488 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1244 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] We have just received last minute information concerning the Chad-Libya question. In fact, we have just learned that a meeting on the border dispute between Chad and Libya over the Aozou Strip will be held in Libreville on 5-7 July between the foreign ministers of Chad, Libya, and Gabon. But the source specified that the discussions will center on the question of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Chad and Libya. We will come back to this report again in our later casts.

Soldiers Reportedly Attack Convoy, 8 Dead

AB2706132988 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 12 Jun 88

[Text] Eight persons were killed and over 50 others wounded in an attack reportedly made by uniformed men of the Chadian Army in the Sudanese Darfur Province against a convoy of vehicles transporting goods. This was announced this morning by travelers.

Egypt

'Ubayd Reportedly To Form New Cabinet in October

JN2706145088 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Jun 88 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the political leadership has totally reneged on a limited cabinet reshuffle involving five ministers this month. A new government is expected to be formed at the beginning of October.

Political circles have asserted that President Husni Mubarak will entrust Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, with forming the next cabinet, which will succeed Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government after the elections for local people's councils scheduled for 13 September.

These sources pointed out that the comprehensive cabinet reshuffle will coincide with the beginning of the next school year to confront possible student demonstrations. The formation of the next government will also coincide with the beginning of the coming session of the People's Assembly.

The political circles asserted that Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, agriculture minister, and NDP secretary general, still has a chance to form the next government, but his prospects are less than those of Dr 'Ubayd.

The circles ruled out the possibility of entrusting People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub with forming the new government due to his reduced popularity with the political leadership.

Moreover, some state bodies are now nominating personalities to chair the People's Assembly in the next parliamentary session. These nominations will be presented to President Husni Mubarak, who will choose one of them.

'Arafat Seeks Help To End Camps Shelling

NC2706115888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to President Husni Mubarak appealing for his immediate intervention to halt the shelling of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps. The message was received by the Egyptian ambassador in Tunis, 'Ali Mahir.

In his message to President Mubarak, 'Arafat said: This aggression is continuing despite our repeated appeals to the Syrian leadership, and to President Hafiz al-Asad in person, to stop this destructive shelling and constant, inhuman attacks against these camps. Surrounded by death, the children, women, and men who inhabit these camps are shedding blood and paying with their lives for crimes and offenses they did not commit.

Concluding his message 'Arafat expressed confidence that President Mubarak and the other Arab presidents and kings will spare no efforts to stop this tribulation that has exceeded all limits and descriptions.

The Palestinian news agency earlier today reported that the Palestinian camps in Beirut are being shelled with heavy artillery, mortars, and rockets from positions under the control of the Syrian Army in Lebanon, both in the mountain and in the Beirut areas.

Mubarak Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues

NC2606173088 Cairo MENA in English 1600 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Alexandria, June 26 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak reasserted today that there is no rpt no giving up of Tabah sovereignty.

During his meeting today with the deans, teaching staff and youth of Alexandria University, the president said that through the people's determination and solidarity, Egypt has been able to pass through the most difficult economic phases in the last couple of years.

President Mubarak said Egypt will go ahead with steadfastness, despite difficulties facing it and the population growth that eats up all development rates.

The president urged citizens to rationalise consumption in their interests and in the interest of the country.

The president further pointed out that the loans Egypt obtains are not rpt not for consumption but for construction, investment, and to salvage the infrastructure from total collapse.

He said the state seeks to realise as much as possible an acceptable and gradual balance between prices and wages.

On the capital investment law, President Mubarak said it aims at protecting the depositors' money and also at protecting Egypt's national economy.

The president asserted that there is no rpt no covering up for corruption nor deviation, adding that liberty and democracy should be in the service of the citizen's cause. He asserted that all our potentialities should be directed to building up Egypt and achieving its renaissance.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak expressed during the meeting keenness on exchanging views with the professors and youth of Alexandria University, and to brief them on some home and foreign issues so that they may realise the thinking and philosophy that govern Egypt's resolution.

Al-Sharif said the president dealt with the difficulties and obstacles facing Egypt when it is seeking to schedule its debts and achieve understanding with the International Monetary Fund while rejecting the imposition of any economic policy that is unsuitable for the Egyptian people's circumstances.

The president asserted that Egypt seeks to realise economic reform as it is the best road towards a better future, Al-Sharif said.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak moved to the foreign policy and expounded Egypt's relationship with the outside world, stressing that Egypt shares good and excellent ties with all countries of the world East and West. He said such ties rely on mutual respect and joint cooperation based on respect of sovereignty in all spheres.

In reply to a query on Egypt's relations with Syria, Libya and Algeria, President Mubarak gave numerous facts on these relations and stressed Egypt's commitment to realise a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He further expressed hope for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to succeed in unifying the Palestinian stance as regards the Palestinian representation, so that progress may be realised towards settling the Palestinian cause.

On Egypt's relations with sisterly African states, President Mubarak said they are based on respect and appreciation pointing to Egypt's support of the continent's causes, and the African countries backing of Egypt as regards the Arab causes, Al-Sharif added.

Reportage on Visit of Japanese Foreign Minister

Arrives in Cairo

NC2406134288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Sosuke Uno, Japanese minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon for a 3-day visit, as part of his current tour of the Middle East.

Upon arrival, Mr Uno stated that he had decided to visit Syria, Jordan, and Egypt in the wake of the Toronto summit of leaders of the seven major industrial countries.

He said his visit aims to follow-up the Middle East peace process and added that his talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will deal with ways to achieve peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin

NC2506122388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and Japan began at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry this morning.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, leads the Egyptian side and Sosuke Uno, Japanese foreign minister who is currently visiting Egypt in response to an invitation by his Egyptian counterpart, leads the Japanese side.

The Egyptian delegation includes Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; Ambassador Wafa Hijazi, assistant foreign minister; Ambassador Isma'il Makhluf, director of the Asia Department at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassador Muhab Muqbil, director of the Foreign Minister's Office; and a number of Foreign Ministry experts in Asian affairs.

The discussions will deal with ways of bolstering cooperation between Cairo and Tokyo in the political, economic, and cultural fields. They will also deal with the Middle East developments, current efforts to give an impetus to the peace process in the region, and the chances of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East to find a just, durable, and comprehensive solution to the disputes in the region.

The discussions will further broach ways of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraqi-Iranian dispute.

The Japanese foreign minister's visit to Cairo is part of his current Middle East tour, which includes Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Israel.

Meets Mubarak

NC2506144188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received in the Presidential Palace this morning Sosuke Uno, Japanese minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Egypt. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, the Japanese ambassador in Cairo, and the director of the Middle East desk at the Japanese Foreign Ministry also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, 'Abd al-Majid said that several political and economic issues were discussed, as was Japan's role in giving momentum to the peace process and its interest in this issue. The talks also touched on the outcome of the Toronto summit conference of industrial nations, particularly as regards the Middle East crisis. Bilateral issues and economic ties were also discussed.

The Japanese foreign minister said that he explained to President Mubarak the views regarding the Middle East problem expressed by the leaders of the seven industrial nations during the recent Toronto summit. He noted that his visits to a number of Middle Eastern countries are intended to contribute toward peace in the Middle East. He pointed out that he explained to President Mubarak the Japanese leadership's desire to increase its efforts to push the peace process in the region.

The Japanese foreign minister said that he listened to President Mubarak's views, noting that President Mubarak welcomes any efforts by the Japanese Government to help establish peace in the region. He noted that peace cannot be achieved through economic aid alone.

When asked about the current quadripartite conference in Cairo aimed at resolving problems in southern Africa, the Japanese foreign minister said that this is the biggest problem, and requires a solution. He noted that the Japanese Parliament has asked many questions about this, and pointed out that it is important to continue the dialogue and meetings. He expressed the hope that peace will be achieved in southern Africa and praised the great role played by Egypt toward this end.

The Japanese foreign minister also said that he and Minister 'Abd al-Majid will continue to discuss joint economic issues.

Peace Conference Discussed

OW2506130888 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, June 25 KYODO—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak told visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno Saturday that Israel should participate in a proposed international conference for peace in the Middle East.

On Israel's objection to the holding of such an international conference, Mubarak said Israel has nothing to lose in the conference and rather will benefit from it.

In the one-hour meeting at the president's office, Mubarak asked Uno, on a tour of Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel, to relay his views to Israeli leaders when he visits Israel Sunday.

On the issue of Palestinian participation in the proposed conference, Mubarak said the best solution is to form a joint delegation of Palestinian and Jordan representatives.

This formula is contained in U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's proposal but Mubarak's views implied the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) should be included in the joint delegation. The United States rejects the PLO's participation.

Mubarak also said he welcomes Japan's contributions to the Middle East peace process and expected Japan's support for international economic aid to Egypt.

Uno pledged all possible assistance to Egypt, saying Egypt's stability is necessary for peace in the Middle East.

Japanese Aid Pledged

OW2506130288 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, June 25 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno pledged Saturday Japan would continue financial aid for peace in the Middle East, officials said.

They said Uno made the promise in a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Majid told Uno Japanese funds provided for the multinational peace-keeping force in the Sinai Peninsula and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians in the Near East have contributed to peace in the region.

Uno said a member of the Japanese imperial family will attend the ceremony in October for the opening of an education and culture center built in Cairo with Japanese aid.

Economic Ties Reviewed

NC2506180188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Zenji Kaminaga, director of the First Middle East Division at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, has asserted that his country is interested in the current efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and in the convening of an international peace conference. He noted, however, that Israel's lack of desire to participate in such a conference is an obstacle. He also referred to the fact that the Palestinians have not established a unified position as yet.

In a news conference held today, the Japanese official expressed the view that the solution would be the participation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the international conference.

Kaminaga said that Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno is visiting the area to exchange views with regional leaders.

He said that during a meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Uno remarked that the Middle East crisis was one of the issues discussed by the industrialized nations in Toronto. He also noted that President Mubarak expressed appreciation for Japan's efforts to promote the Middle East peace process.

Zenji Kaminaga said that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held discussions today with the Japanese foreign minister on current international issues and the possibility of promoting bilateral relations in all spheres.

The Japanese official described Egyptian-Japanese relations as good and close. He noted that Japan has several agreements with Egypt on trade, aviation, preventing double taxation, protecting investments, and technical cooperation. He said these agreements are designed to promote and develop economic and technical cooperation, increase trade between the two countries, and encourage Japanese investment in Egypt.

From 1960 to 1986, Japan extended approximately $1 billion in development aid to Egypt. Among the important projects which Japan has helped to build and develop are an extension to the Cairo University Children's Hospital, the rice technology training center, agricultural machinery complexes, fisheries on the Mediterranean and Red Seas, the Damietta port, and the Asyut thermal power plant.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2606082788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno left Cairo for Tel Aviv early this morning at the conclusion of a 2-day official visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

During his visit, the Japanese foreign minister held discussions with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on developments in the Middle East, efforts to convene an international conference for peace, and ways of bolstering Egyptian-Japanese relations in various fields.

Uno was seen off by Assistant Foreign Minister Wafa Hijazi. The Japanese foreign minister is currently touring the Middle East region.

People's Assembly Nominates Mubarak for President

NC2706145088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Excerpt] The People's Assembly today released a statement on the achievements made during the first ordinary parliamentary session of the fifth legislative term.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub stressed that, in response to the people's will and out of the conviction that Egypt's interest requires a leader who has given and is giving a great deal, the People's Assembly insists on renominating President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for another term in office.

Al-Mahjub said that the People's Assembly heard two statements by Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government. The People's Assembly emphasized its confidence and support for the NDP government and the general policies outlined in its program. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Cited on Election Boycott

PM2706144988 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jun 88 p 1

[Karim Mahmud report: "We Boycotted Elections To Safeguard Unified Front of Opposition Parties"]

[Excerpts] Socialist Labor Party [SLP] and opposition leader Ibrahim Shukri has described the decision of the leaders of the opposition parties to boycott the local elections as "a very good achievement" and "a firm basis" for the unity of ranks of the various opposition forces and factions in the face of a series of undemocratic government practices, which culminated in the extension of the emergency law, followed by the amendment of some articles of the local administration law to undermine the ability of opposition parties to coordinate among themselves on the local council elections. These amendments run contrary to the sound rules of democratic practice, especially with the sword of the emergency law hanging over the people's necks.

He added: This extreme eagerness of our party to preserve the opposition's unity of ranks was clearly demonstrated in the thorough discussions and dialogues held during the meeting of the SLP's higher committee last Friday. Despite the differences of views and opinions of the committee members as to whether or not to boycott the elections, and despite the fact that many of the party's provincial leaderships and ranks stressed that they had made preparations and were ready to join in the elections, all members wanted to safeguard the unity of the opposition front. That is why we finally decided to boycott the local elections. [passage omitted]

The leaders of the opposition parties had announced their decision in a brief statement after their 2-hour meeting at Wafd Party headquarters last Saturday.

The statement said: The leaders of the opposition parties have unanimously decided to boycott the forthcoming local council elections because of the serious constitutional violations and amendments to the local administration law. They also decided to continue their coordination on requirements for the next phase.

5 Mosques 'Stormed,' 200 Arrested; Protests

JN2706154888 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Jun pp 1, 6

[Text] Violent clashes erupted between the security forces and members of Islamic groups in the areas of 'Ayn Shams and Imbabah following the Friday prayers on 24 June. The security forces stormed five mosques in the two areas and more than 200 members of Islamic groups were arrested.

The clashes began following Friday prayers when central security soldiers stormed the mosque of Adam in the 'Ayn Shams area during Friday prayers. The soldiers attacked the worshippers with tear gas and gas bombs. Approximately 50 worshippers were arrested while they were fleeing. The security forces also stormed the mosques of Badr, Al-Mina, Abu al-Futuh, and Al-Shahabah in the Imbabah area and arrested 150 worshippers. The forces used ammunition to disperse the worshippers who gathered to confront the security forces.

Furthermore, the security forces at dawn yesterday launched large-scale arrest campaigns against houses of members of Islamic groups. They arrested Tariq 'Ali Shafiq, Yasir 'Ali, and Wahid Faruq, and seized the latter's car. The state security intelligence service chased members of the Islamic groups and opened fire on Muhammad 'Abduh, who was hit in the leg.

On the other hand, Mahmud Riyad, a lawyer, asked Counselor Muhammad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jundi, public prosecutor, to investigate the disappearance of Muhammad Taysir Mahmud and Amad Shihab al-Din, both of whom are being detained at the Turrah prison under vague circumstances.

In another development, demonstrations were staged in the city of Al-Minya on 24 June to protest the Interior Ministry's way of storming the mosques. Violent clashes erupted between the security forces and members of the groups. The security forces used gas and smoke bombs as well as electrified sticks. Dozens of group members were arrested.

The Islamic groups issued a statement stressing that demonstrations will continue throughout Egypt to protest the Interior Ministry's return to the storming of mosques and attacking worshippers and also to protest the government's continued policy of raising prices.

Negotiations With IMF, World Bank Reviewed

JN2606141988 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
24 Jun 88 pp 20, 21

[By Safa' Luways] [Text] "Loans" and "conditions" are two sides of the same coin with which international organizations cannot dispense in their dealings with debtor countries. This is how the Egyptian relationship with the World Bank began. However, a serious pause is needed to assess whether Egypt is really benefiting from the loans offered by the international organizations in light of the talks an IMF delegation held in Cairo this week. What secrets do these talks contain?

Figures show that Egypt so far has obtained more than $3.6 billion from the World Bank under the chapter of ordinary loans with easy terms, of which Egypt has used only $2.5 billion. This means that the Egyptian Treasury has been paying $10 million a year as commission on the unused balance, which is estimated at $1.1 billion.

In spite of this, Egypt began a new round of talks and negotiations with World Bank missions more than 1 year ago to obtain a new loan estimated at $700 million. These talks and negotiations resulted in a preliminary rejection by the latest mission which visited Cairo last week.

The Egyptian Government expressed displeasure over the World Bank's stand and the fact that it did not take into account Egypt's political, economic, and social circumstances. In view of Egypt's displeasure, the World Bank was somewhat forced to abandon one of its most important conditions, that of extending the economic reform period from 5 years to 7 years, but on condition that during this period, Egypt will increase the prices of oil by-products, such as electricity and natural gas, by 45 percent annually until they attain the level of world prices in 1993-94.

On the other hand, the misunderstanding which currently prevails between Egypt and the IMF has further complicated the situation in view of the close connection between the World Bank and the IMF. Any loan Egypt seeks to obtain from the World Bank now depends on the extent of Egypt's response to the implementation of the second part of the IMF prescription and on pursuing the march of economic reform.

But, what about the secrets of the recent bilateral meetings? A ranking official within the World Bank's delegation has affirmed that Egypt actually started the first steps on the road toward economic reform more than 2 years ago, and that the road is paved for more reforms.

Although the Egyptian economy has very good resources, it still lacks the optimal exploitation of these resources to overcome the accumulations of the past and to proceed with quick steps on the course of economic and social reform. Perhaps the first of these accumulations is the deficit of the state's general budget, which is always accompanied by a huge deficit in the balance of payments. This means that there is a constant need to seek loans to finance this deficit.

The World Bank official added: When the World Bank agrees to offer a loan to any developing country, it must ascertain that this loan is used to implement development projects and on the condition that they yield profits sufficient to repay the installments and the interests on the loan. He said: For example, when a country like Egypt asks for a loan that will be allotted to electricity, and when the Bank finds out that the price of electricity in Egypt, even after increases, still represents one-fourth of world prices, this means that the project is registering a loss and not a profit.

In this case, the Bank will hesitate and will set many more conditions before approving the loan. The Bank's objective is not to finance a specific project, but to support economic reform policies in general. This calls for not burdening the state budget with more deficits and, subsequently, with more debts.

Before the World Bank agrees to grant sector loans to a developing country, it first makes sure that specific steps to bring about economic reform are being carried out to remove what is seen, from its viewpoint, as an impediment to production. The most important of these impediments is the budget deficit, which requires the adoption of austerity measures to reduce expenditure. These austerity measures begin with effecting a reduction in commodity subsidies, whether these subsidies are direct or indirect, and also with increasing revenues through reforms in the tax and customs systems. As a matter of fact, Egypt is heading in these directions.

However, the World Bank notes that economic reform measures are not implemented quickly despite the fact that the Bank values the efficiency of these steps. This has dimmed the chances of an agreement being reached by Egypt and the Bank during the recent bilateral talks. This prompted the Bank to freeze a previously agreed upon loan which was to be allocated for Egypt. This measures will remain in force until Egypt displays its goodwill by a speedy implementation of the Bank's demands.

On Egypt's share in the World Bank's capital and the loans obtained by Egypt since it began its dealings with the Bank until now, a secret report indicates that Egypt's share in this regard has reached approximately 2.3 percent of the Bank's total capital, which is estimated to be $150 billion shared by the member states according to their economic power. According to the report, Egypt has so far obtained 96 loans from the World Bank, 47 of which were granted at the normal interest rate and 29 easy-term loans received from the International Development Association. [figures as published]

Thirty-five percent of these loans were earmarked for projects carried out in the industrial sector, while 21 percent were earmarked for agricultural and irrigation projects, 17 percent earmarked for transportation and communication projects, 16 percent earmarked for the electricity and energy sector projects, and 11 percent earmarked for the social services sector, including education, housing, and urban development, which also entails the implementation of drinking water and sewage projects.

These normal and easy-term loans have amounted to $3.6 billion. These loans were used to finance development projects. Of this figure, $2.5 billion has been used to carry out agreed upon projects. Thus, $1.1 billion has remained ready for use from among the previous loans. Speeding up expenditure from this huge amount requires that both sides solve some administrative and technical obstructions.

Within this framework, agreement was reached between the Egyptian side and the deputy president of the Bank, during his recent visit to Cairo in November 1987, to form a group of Egyptian and Bank experts to work out arrangements for the prompt spending of $1.1 billion to support the Egyptian balance of payments. Perhaps a major obstacle to using this credit is the slow pace of implementation of the projects which the Bank contracted to finance. This makes it necessary to remove administrative and technical obstacles and secure funding and local resources to meet the requirement of involving Egyptians in every project, whether in the building aspect or in the technical cadres.

The Egyptian Treasury, as a result of these obtacles, annually bears a high contracting fee and administrative outlay amounting to approxmately $10 million, a large part of which is wasted without benefits for either party.

Regarding the real cause behind the story of hostility between the World Bank and the developing countries in general, another World Bank official says: The story of hostility essentially concerns what is termed "conditionally." By that, I mean the conditions and demands which the Bank adheres to and which the debtor country considers unfair and oppressive conditions.

In the case of Egypt, I would like to mention here that the rate of World Bank loans to Egypt has dropped considerably in recent years because the two sides have not been able, so far, to agree on the economic policies related to certain major loans which have been under discussion for well over 2 years. These policies concern economic reforms in general, especially in the energy, agricultural, and industrial sectors.

Concerning the energy sector, the main point of current discussion between Egypt and the Bank is the price of oil products. The subject was raised when Egypt requested that the World Bank finance the Damietta power plant, in addition to a loan for reforming the energy sector. The agreement reached then between Egypt and the Bank was that Egypt would increase energy prices annually until they reach the level of world prices within 5 years, which would have ended in 1991-92; in other words at the end of the current 5-year plan. The implementation of this agreement was scheduled to begin in January 1987. However, it was delayed until May 1987. Indeed, the energy prices were increased by 65 percent.

During the second phase, local oil prices were scheduled to be increased by 70 or 75 percent annually so that it would be possible to reach the level of world prices in 5 years, in accordance with the World Bank's assessments that the rate of inflation in Egypt ranges from 25-30 percent annually, which means a drop in the value of the Egyptian pound by the same percentage annually and the necessity to increase petroleum prices by the same percentage.

In November 1987, and after a long discussion between the two sides, the vice president of the World Bank concluded that this increase was unrealistic for political and economic reasons. So he extended the period of reforms from 5 to 7 years in order to reach the level of world prices at the end of 1993-94. Reaching this objective would require increasing the prices of oil products—electricity and natural gas—in Egypt by at least 45 percent annually.

The Bank official affirmed that he did not object to the idea of ensuring that aid gets to the right people, such as taking from the well-to-do people and giving to the needy by increasing the price of gasoline, which mostly affects the upper classes, and freezing the prices of kerosene and butane in view of its popular consumption, provided that local prices are raised to the level of world prices at the end of the fixed period.

In view of the difficulty of implementing this demand even after it has been alleviated, Egypt has requested that the World Bank be more flexible on the question of raising energy prices due to the drought which has caused a serious drop in the level of the High Dam lake, and to consider it an emergency situation.

The World Bank, however, has not given up its demand and all it has done is offer more temptations to Egypt. The Bank replied that as soon as the Egyptian Government adopts measures to increase the prices of certain petroleum products such as gasoline, an Egyptian delegation will be invited to Washington to finalize the talks on the Damietta power plant. The project will then be referred to the Bank's council of executive directors to take the necessary measures. The negotiations are continuing.

Regarding the results of negotiations between the World Bank and Egypt in the industrial sector, the first of the Bank's demands to finance this sector was to cancel the social price and to work with the economic price. This means leaving the prices of commodities subject to the

requirements of supply and demand, in addition to improving the efficiency of production through rationalization of the public sector and liberation of it from several restrictions imposed on it, which disturb the efficiency of production.

If differences between the World Bank and Egypt expanded in the energy sector and began to narrow in the industrial sector, the two sides reached further agreement in the agricultural sector where most of the reforms which the Bank demanded were achieved. These reforms are represented by exclusion of most of the agricultural crops from compulsory exports, which brought positive revenues to the national economy due to the increase of the agricultural products, by increasing the prices of these crops for the peasants.

The only crops which continue to be included in compulsory exports are cotton, rice, and sugar cane. There was also agreement on a continuous annual increase in the prices of agricultural crops in the interest of the producer until we eventually reach the market price in terms of supply and demand, which constitutes an incentive to the Egyptian farmer. Thus, several reforms have been achieved in the agricultural sector and very little remains to be achieved.

The group of reforms called for by the Bank has contributed to increasing energy prices and rationalization of their use, to increasing the prices of agricultural crops and industrial products, to lifting restrictions on the freedom of dealings and production, and to rationalizing the public sector, including measures to make reforms in each sector according to its needs. Egypt has called for slowing the implementation of economic reforms to which it adheres.

The World Bank's reply was that in order to guarantee implementation of an efficient national reform program, an agreement should be reached with the IMF during negotiations with the recent IMF mission, which is currently visiting Cairo, especially since negotiations stumbled between the two sides in 1987, as the IMF official put it. This becomes clear if we take into consideration that a major part of the reforms, if not all of them, for which the IMF calls, are in harmony with the World Bank's demands. The Bank has promised that in the event an agreement is reached between Egypt and the IMF, it will grant an annual loan ranging between $500 and $700 million with an interest rate of 7.7 percent, especially since the Bank likes to cooperate with Egypt, which is one of the most important states for the World Bank.

The promise will be fulfilled by granting a loan of $700 million, 30 percent of which will be allocated to supporting the balance of payment in the form of loans, including sector loans. The remaining portion will be allocated to financing investment projects. A group of projects has actually been agreed to, such as a water network in Alexandria, a project to exploit natural gas, several agricultural development projects, several industrial projects, and other projects to bolster technical training.

The IMF representative added that despite Egypt's huge debts, it still depends on trade loans to finance several of its imports. These trade loans have reached $5 billion with a high interest rate which usually exceeds the IMF interest rates.

IMF Official Departs Cairo Following Talks

NC2506123788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1019 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jun (MENA)—Dr 'Abd al-Shakur Sha'lan, IMF executive director for the Middle East and South Africa, left Cairo this afternoon following a visit of a few days to Egypt during which he held talks concerning the IMF's contribution to Egypt's program for economic reform.

In a pre-departure statement, Sha'lan said that he will come back to Cairo in late July to continue talks with Egyptian officials on ways to sustain the economic reform plan which was launched 2 years ago.

Asked about the IMF's stand on the Egyptian investment companies issue, Sha'lan said that the IMF does not have any policy toward these companies, adding that the Egyptian government's administrative measures have been taken to protect investors and guarantee that the country's economic resources are employed in a satisfactory manner.

Kuwait To Receive 'Advanced Military Equipment'

NC2506205388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2027 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Jun (MENA)—A military agreement between Egypt and Kuwait was signed at the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry here today. According to the agreement, the Arab Republic of Egypt will provide Kuwait with advanced military equipment.

The agreement was signed for Egypt by Brigadier General Ahmad 'Awad from the Egyptian Defense Ministry, and Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad signed for Kuwait. The ceremony was also attended by the Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Army chief of staff, and senior Kuwaiti officials.

President Mubarak Appoints New Army Leaders

NC2806043888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today issued a decree appointing Staff Major General Salah 'Atiyah Halabi as commander of the 3d Field Army. He will replace Staff Maj Gen 'Adil al-Qadi,

who has been appointed head of the Armed Forces Training Institution. Staff Maj Gen Muhammad Ra'if Salim has been appointed chief of staff of the 3d Field Army. [passage omitted]

Butrus Ghali Confers with Cuba's Risquet

NC2406183188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this evening with Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and head of his country's delegation to the quadripartite talks on the independence of Namibia and the Angolan problem.

Dr Ghali also met with Chester Crocker, assistant U.S. secretary of state for African affairs and head of the U.S. delegation to the talks.

The discussions dealt with the progress of the talks and with Egypt's relations with Cuba and the United States.

Direct Contact with South Africa Denied

NC2406201188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt has not had any contact with South Africa and that all arrangements in connection with the arrival of the South African delegation were made through Chester Crocker, assistant U.S. secretary of state for African affairs, and the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

In a statement to be published by the paper tomorrow, Saturday, a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry says that the idea of holding this round of quadripartite talks in Cairo was crystallized during the last visit to Egypt by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Ghali Meets Angola's Van Dunem; Cited on Talks

NC2406205488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil al-Sillawi, director of the African Deparatment at the Foreign Ministry, has said that at their meeting today, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Chester Crocker, assistant U.S. secretary of state for African affairs, reviewed the progress made at the quadripartite negotiations on a solution for the South African problem.

He added that Dr Ghali expressed confidence about the progress of the negotiations and determination to bridge the gap and narrow the differences between the parties concerned for the sake of liberating southern Africa. He noted that Ghali described the Cairo quadripartite conference as a basic and decisive step toward solving the problem of this important part of the African Continent.

Tonight Dr Ghali visited Afonso Van Dunem, Angola's minister of external relations. They reviewed the progress of the quadripartite talks that began earlier today.

4-Party Talks on Southern Africa Held in Cairo

For further reportage on the meeting held by South Africa, Cuba, Angola, and the United States on the Angola-Namibia issue 24-25 June in Cairo, see the Inter-African Affairs section of the 23 June Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Israeli Aide Refused Audience With Mubarak

PM2706144188 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jun 88 p 1

[Mahmud Bakri report: "Mubarak and Dr al-Baz Refuse To Meet With Israeli Foreign Ministry Director"]

[Text] A diplomatic source has told AL-SHA'B that, during his visit to Cairo over the past few days, General Avraham Tamir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director, asked to meet with President Mubarak or with the director of the Presidential Office, Dr Usamah al-Baz, but that his request was rejected and he was only allowed to meet with an assistant foreign minister, who in turn delivered the message brought by Tamir from Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to President Mubarak.

The source said that in his message, Yitzhaq Shamir expressed an interest in reactivating dialogue between the Israeli and Egyptian sides, through an exchange of visits by political envoys from the two countries with the aim of resolving differences and assessing the peace process in the region in light of the new U.S. proposals. Shamir also reaffirmed his interest in meeting with President Mubarak to find a way out of what he called the complex state of the peace process in the region.

In his message, Shamir called for an intensification of the guard around the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, stressing that the current arrangements are inadequate, particularly with the increasing opposition to the Israeli presence in Egypt.

The source added: During his meeting with the Egyptian assistant foreign minister, Avraham Tamir tried to initiate consultations on the Tabah issue following reports that the decision will be in favor of Egypt and its right to the disputed area in Tabah. However, his attempts were turned down and the Egyptian assistant foreign minister told him that Egypt is fully committed to what the International Court of Justice decides in this connection.

'Secure Borders' With Israel Called 'Illusion'

JN2606205788 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Jun 88 p 7

[Editorial: "The Theory of Security"]

[Text] The Arab world has long experienced the illusion of secure borders. Israel entrenched them in the region and made a pretext for further expansion on the basis that any line Israel reaches is not exactly the borders that may provide the required security.

Even in international resolutions, Israel has urged recognition of its right to existence within secure borders. Meanwhile, Israel resisted all attempts to define such borders, hoping they will be established on the grounds of future interactions. Israel also used formal procedures as a cover to reject negotiations with the concerned parties. An example is Israel's objection to an international conference and its rejection of Palestinian representation.

Naturally, every state has the right to secure borders. Requirements of existence necessitate the presence of clear borders for any state, so that violation of its borders can be considered a form of aggression that deserves deterrence, or at least negotiations that will lead to retreat and the regaining of rights.

But, considering borders as open, in the sense that they can be expanded according to circumstances, is a matter rejected by all international laws, norms, and charters. Likewise, the permanent mobilization of Israeli armies on the pretext of defending Israel while awaiting opportunities to launch aggression, is no longer justifiable in view of the means of deterrence and sophisticated arms technology, because there is growing reliance on quality rather than quantity to protect the homeland.

We can briefly say that the security theories based on massing troops on borders have become moot in the presence of multi-range missiles. Moreover, development of the missile systems has actually revealed the falsehoods and allegations regarding the so-called protection of borders by armies, and has also exposed such pretexts which conceal expansionist ambitions and aggressive attitudes.

Real security, which is free of tendentious motives, has become one based only on the entrenchment of a just peace, with provision for a reasonable amount of a power balance that is able to protect peace. This is because an erroneous balance in this regard, due to one party being superior to another in the field of modern protection using sophisticated means, may tempt aggression or fabrication of crises in order to obtain transient gains.

Furthermore, the minds of the masses should not forget that the state's power is not only embodied in its military capabilities. Rather, this power, in the general qualitative measure, also includes other elements, such as distance and the well-employed human population. It also includes the degree of economic and political progress and the presence of a balanced and effective strategy based on right, justice, stability, and peace—a strategy to which the masses will contribute with all their capabilities to its provision and success.

Newspaper Hits Back at Algerian Press Criticism

NC2706082288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has denounced the banal article published by an Algerian newspaper describing Egypt as "merely a geographical point in the middle of the African Continent which is insignificant and without a role." AL-AHRAM says that by coining this insolent phrase, the newspaper shows no respect for itself, the Algerian media, or even the Algerian people.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that Egypt has no need to prove its value to anyone, or to remind anyone of its existence, or explain its role. Egypt's value is established and readily recalled to mind. History and the facts stand witness to its role and show that this is not something that Egypt has made up or invented. It is also embedded in the minds of the Algerian people themselves. Egypt supported the Algerian people, contributed to their liberation, and fought for their rights when French colonialism boasted that Algeria was part of the motherland and would remain so forever.

The paper adds that Egypt has no need to remind anyone of its leading African role. All fair, wise, and enlightened people are always expressing their gratitude for this role and their loyalty. However, biased persons, demagogues, and defamers will not be able to usurp a position for themselves, even among their own citizens, with their clumsy claims, blind jealousy, cheap charlatanism, and spiteful hatred.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says that the quadripartite conference on establishing peace in southern Africa, which was held in Cairo and ended on Saturday, is proof that Egypt has given a great deal, and continues to do so. It has given of its funds, resources, and sweat for the fraternal African countries, without regarding this as a favor.

Sudan

Government Claims Control of Southern Fronts

EA2306224488 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 88

[Text] A responsible source in the general command of the People's Armed Forces announced that the Armed Forces have imposed total control on all battlefronts,

breaking the rebels' backbone in the regions of Bahr al-Ghazal, Upper Nile, and the area west of (Nuweyr) in the Al-Wahdah Province by their activities.

The source said that as a result, large groups of outlaws had surrendered to Armed Forces posts, seeking peace. The outlaw (Lieutenant Mayok Chuol) who surrendered to our forces in the (Al Bon) in [words indistinct] and who said he was working in the Jokau area under the command of outlaw Salva Kiir [Mayar Dit] in the military and political intelligence unit. Three other outlaws with their personal weapons surrendered in the (Rab Kona) who said that many outlaws were dying of hunger on their way to surrender.

Government on Kenya's Harboring of Rebel Forces
EA2506183188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of culture and information and official government spokesman said the Ethiopian Government was beginning to reconsider hosting Garang's movement. He said: The position of Garang's movement in Ethiopia is uncomfortable. That is a result of the nature of the composition of the movement, its lack of discipline and its internal conflicts, in addition to Sudan's diplomatic siege.

His excellency added that he expected the Ethiopian authorities to chase Garang's movement from its territory at any time if the movement did not move by itself. He said that Sudan noted the fact that Kenya wanted to play a substitute role in case Ethiopia took measures to expel the movement.

His excellency reiterated Sudan's position regarding Kenya's harboring of the movement and said: Opening relief offices for the movement is considered a hostile act against Sudan, which asks the Kenyan Government to reconsider, otherwise it might be forced to reciprocate.

Government Suspends Current Talks With IMF
JN2506203588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jun (SUNA)—The national reconciliation government has decided to end the current negotiations with the IMF and prepare for another round of talks at a later time. The government stressed that Sudan is fully aware of its economic problems and is ready to use any means to deal with them. It said that Sudan will continue to implement the policies and reforms included in the general budget statement with the objective of carrying out the quadripartite plan of development, reform, and salvation.

This came in a statement made by 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, minister of information and culture and the government's official spokesman on the recent talks with the IMF team. The statement said that a meeting was held with the IMF during the second half of June. The Sudanese team included the ministers of finance, agriculture, industry, foreign trade, and economy; a team of technical advisers; and the Sudan Bank governor. The IMF team included Muhammad Ya'qub, B. Jubra Diamond, Dudworth Hikilin, and Zvadjil. [All preceding names as received]

The statement said that, during the talks with the IMF, the Sudanese Government has implemented all that it has committed itself to regarding economic reforms in 1987-88 such as amending exchange rates, encouraging agricultural production, and reviewing some commodity prices. After reviewing the quadripartite plan for salvation in Sudan, the IMF team proposed a plan for economic reform for 1988-89. The statement also said that the Sudanese economic plan was not identical to the IMF plan, and that during the talks, the IMF team expressed appreciation for the Sudanese plan, saying that its objectives were identical to those of the IMF plan. However, there were some differences in the means of implementation.

The Government said that after reviewing the results of talks with the IMF team in the presence of the party leaders represented in the government, the Council of Ministers decided to support the position of the Sudanese negotiators that the Sudanese plan is the best for achieving the desired reform and balance befitting Sudan's social and economic conditions.

The statement added that the IMF team said that the talks have succeeded in narrowing the gap between them. However, a small gap remained between the two positions.

The culture and information minister said that the Sudanese position was more flexible and clearer than that of the IMF team, and that the negotiators did not enjoy full authorization, something which prevented the two sides from reaching a comprehensive agreement. Therefore, the minister added: Sudan deemed it necessary to end the current negotiations at this stage and to prepare for another round of talks at a later time.

The statement declared that Sudan is fully aware of its economic problems, is ready to deal with them by all useful means, and will continue with further care to carry out all policies and reforms that were included in the general budget statement. The statement added that the government will therefore carry out the quadripartite plan.

The statement stressed that Sudan's economic problems are great, but that an important part of them is incidental to the national economy. It is hoped that they will be eliminated with the elimination of such problems as refugees, evacuees, fighting in some of our southern regions, lack of exploitation of explored oil fields, failure to link expatriates to the national economy, intruders and smugglers, flabbiness and corruption in the public sector, and the burdens of foreign debts.

National Unity Radio Reports Fighting
LD2806020088 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1440 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] The details of the recent fighting between Anya Nya II and SPLA at Mayom are reaching here as follows: Seven camps of SPLA were captured by the Anya Nya II (Power) Brigade forces. The villages they have captured and the camps are: (Tarkan), (Karinyang Kut), (Maluni), (Wulayr), (Riak), and (Yuk) villages; 400 SPLA were surrendered with their guns, 33 SPLA communist rebels left behind them. [sentence as heard] More than 100 were wounded.

Two Kalashnikov rifles, two RPK machine guns, and one RPG were captured. There are 30 to 40 SPLA daily are reporting into the Mayom of the (Power) Brigade forces and Bentiu. [sentence as heard] The two SPLA [words indistinct] Riak Machar ran towards Bahr al-Ghazal and they are being pursued by Anya Nya II (Power) brigade under the command of Colonel James Kong.

Kuwait

Further Reportage on Visit by Richard Murphy

Meets With Amir

LD2706120388 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 27 Jun, KUNA— The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Richard Murphy, met here today with the Kuwaiti amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

There is no news on the content of the talks, which are due to touch upon bilateral relations, the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and the situation in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Talks With Defense Minister

LD2706121488 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Jun, KUNA— The U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, Richard Murphy, today met the defense minister, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir.

A responsible source at the Defense Ministry told KUNA that the discussion at the meeting dealt with regional matters. U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Howell also attended the meeting.

Mr Murphy arrived in Kuwait last night on a 2-day visit within a tour of a number of the region's countries.

PLO 'Direct Contact' Urged

LD2706143200 Kuwait KUNA in English 1343 GMT 27 Jun 88

[By Salih Nazal]

[Text] Kuwait, June 27 (KUNA)— Kuwait Monday asked the United States to initiate direct contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Kuwaiti stance was relayed by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to visiting Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Near East and South Asia Affairs Richard Murphy during their meeting this afternoon.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that his highness the amir and his highness the crown prince and premier have received Murphy earlier today before the latter indulged in comprehensive and detailed talks with him.

The talks were attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Acting Foreign Undersecretary Al-Salih al-Mutawwa, Director of the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's Office 'Abdallah Sa'ud al-'Abd al-Razak, Director of the Two Americas Department 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shariqah, and a number of ministry officials.

Shaykh Sabah said that the discussions covered bilateral relations and the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied lands, possibilities for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East and the Iraq-Iran war.

He said that Kuwait told Murphy of its absolute support to the Palestinians upheaval to demand their legitimate national rights, total Israeli withdrawal and establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

He added that Kuwait asked the U.S. to hold contacts and direct dialogue with the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He explained that events in the occupied territories "emanate from the Palestinian people's will and belief in its right to its homeland under leadership of the PLO. That people has revolted after suffering for a long time from the occupation's oppression and brutality."

Shaykh Sabah said that Kuwait affirmed the importance of expediting the international conference to avoid further complicaitons in the problem.

All effective means must be available for that conference, the deputy premier and foreign minister highlighted, pointing out that almost all concerned parties have accepted that conference.

Shaykh Sabah called on the U.S. secretary of state to declare a clearcut stand approving the convocation of the conference under the U.N. umbrella as a prelude to uncover all parties' stands toward it.

Asked whether there was any development in the American stance vis-a-vis the Palestine cause, Shaykh Sabah expressed belief that there is an understanding of the new developments in the region but the special and distinctive relationship between the U.S. and Israel should not be ignored and added that the Americans anyway "realize the serious situation currently existing."

On the U.S. stand toward the Iraq-Iran war and implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598, Shaykh Sabah announced that there is nothing new in the American attitude in this respect.

Washington insists on the execution of that resoltuion with all articles, but other countries are still hesitant in its implementation in its current order of priority, he noted.

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that the Gulf Cooperation Council countries had unanimously passed a decision backing that resolution and necessity of its implementation.

They also decided to contact all concerned parties, particularly the hesitant ones, to affirm importance of executing 598, Shaykh Sabah went on.

For his part, Murphy told reporters that he held fruitful talks with his highness the amir, his highness the crown prince and premier and the deputy premier and foreign minister.

He added that the talks touched on bilateral relations, Iraq-Iran war and the Mideast crisis and underlined that his country calls for an immediate end to the Gulf war.

Amir Receives Gorbachev Message From Envoy
LD2806102288 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0958 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Jun (KUNA)— It was officially announced here today that Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

No official information is available about the contents of the message, which was delivered by the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait during his audience with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today.

Papers Comment on Palestinian Peace Document
LD2806085888 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 28 (KUNA)— One Kuwaiti daily Tuesday supported and a weekly paper oposed the Palestinian document, known as "Abu Sharif's document," on a settlement to the Palestinian Israeli conflict. Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said this document is a "test balloon" to find out the Palestinian, Arab and American reactions regarding Palestinian representation at any peace talks.

The paper explained that the Palestinian paper is a "bait" to affect the American decision "in an intricate political issue" and an assertion of the PLO's role in any political settlement to the conflict through an international conference.

The daily stressed that Abu Sharif's document "is a political cover for the coming phase of obscurity and mutual mistrust," noting that the two superpowers "want concessions from all parties to the conflict in order to bring divergent stances."

On the other hand, weekly magazine AL-MUJTAMA criticized the Palestinian paper by saying that it represents new dimensions in dealing with the Zionist entity. The weekly opposed the document because it openly mentioned the name of 'Israel' as an existing reality.

It also added that this document is an attempt to "flirt with the United States, strategic ally of the Zionist enemy."

AL-MUJTAMA rejected the present settlement- initiatives including the international peace conference describing them as "illusions." It affirmed that the Palestinian people should "reject these defeatist initiatives."

Eritrean Front Delegation Ends Visit
LD2606114588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1036 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Kuwait, June 26 (KUNA)— A delegation of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) headed by ELF's leader General Commander of the Eritrean Front Abdullah Idris Mohamed Sunday left here after a few days visit, during which they reviewed with senior Kuwaiti officials current developments in the Eritrea platform.

The ELF leader in a statement to KUNA expressed gratitude and appreciation towards Kuwait for helping the Eritrean people and supporting their struggle.

He also thanked the Kuwaiti Government for its decisions to offer the Eritreans material aid.

PDRY

YSP Official Leaves East Berlin for USSR
EA2406192288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Summary] Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, left Berlin for Moscow after the end of the international meeting on nuclear-free zones.

Returns From USSR, GDR
LD2706221388 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Brother Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Aden this morning from Moscow after concluding a visit to the GDR and the USSR. During this visit they participated in the international meeting for establishment of nuclear-free zones, held in Berlin, on the invitation of Comrade Erich Honecker, general secretary of the German Socialist Unionist Party Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Discusses Palestinian Fighting, Hajj

LD2706185588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1653 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 27 Jun SPA— The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired the cabinet meeting held today at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the meeting, his highness the minister of Information, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, said in a statement to SPA that the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, talked at the beginning of the session about some local affairs in light of the reports he received from the ministers and a number of officials in various sectors. [passage omitted]

Afterwards, the council reviewed reports on the latest political and security developments in the region and, foremost, the news, reports, and contents of telephone conversations and messages relating to the sad current armed confrontation between Palestinian brothers in some Palestinian camps.

In this respect, the council expressed its deepest pain and disapproval of what goes on between the brothers of the same Palestinian people, indicating that the first beneficiary from this sad situation is the Zionist enemy who lurks behind the dissensions and disagreements it creates between the sons of the Palestinian people and even between the sons of the Arab nation on the whole.

The council also called on the brothers fighting one another inside and around the camps to stop the fighting, lay down their arms, and use their reason and their conscience to spare the lives of the innocent population of the camps and prevent human and material energies from being wasted unnecessarily. [passage omitted]

The information minister added: "Afterward, the council resumed its discussions on the preparations being made for the pilgrimage, which concern every Muslim intending to perform this duty and also every Saudi national. In this respect, the council took the necessary measures regarding these arrangements and their implementation. The council also approved that a comprehensive statement on the matter be issued later this week." [passage omitted]

Defense Official on Gulf War, New Weapons

LD2606151388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Riyadh 27 June SPA— His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation, has reiterated the Kingdom's eagerness to see a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war.

In a press statement at the General Staff College Following the graduation ceremony for the 15th staff officer class, his highness said that we hope to see an end to the war between the two Muslim countries of Iraq and Iran, stressing the Kingdom's categorical rejection of the continuation of the war. Commenting on the victories by the Iraqi forces over the Iranian forces, his highness said such victories reaffirm that right will always triumph.

His Highness Prince 'Abd al-Rahman ibn al-'Aziz stated pointedly that there are two essential weapons which will be added to the land forces; agreement to do so has already been reached. In the course of his replies, he said there are two other weapons to be added to the naval forces. You will, however, see for yourselves the kind of weapons to be added in due time.

His highness the deputy minister of defense and aviation and inspector general praised the custodian of the two holy mosques for his eagerness to see that all concerned will provide the best services and facilities to the pilgrims to God's holy qa'ba, pointing out that the Ministry of Defense and Aviation every year contributes services to God's guests. He added that the Ministry of Defense and Aviation's participation in this duty is not a new thing.

Yemen Arab Republic

Interior Ministry Source on Travel to PDRY

JN2706080688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Junm 88

[Text] In a statement to SABA' an official source at the Ministry of Interior said that as of 1 July 1988 Yemeni citizens will need only their identity cards to travel between the two parts of Yemen by land, sea, and air. He said the measure is in implementation of the agreement between the prime ministers of the two parts of Yemen signed in Sanaa on 18 Ramadan 1408 Hegira corresponding to 4 May 1988, whereby citizens need only to show their identity cards when traveling from one part of Yemen to the other.

The Interior Ministry source said the measure is within the framework of unionist efforts to reunite the homeland and embodies the goals of the glorious September and October revolutions.

In conclusion, the Interior Ministry official source said: The directives of the brother leader President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih constantly emphasized the need to remove all difficulties marring the freedom of citizens in traveling within the same homeland.

Reportage on Visit by U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN2606120788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. The discussion during the meeting dealt with a review of bilateral relations and developments in the Iraq-Iran war. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the chief of the Foreign Ministry First International Department, and the U.S.ambassador in Baghdad. Murphy arrived here late last night as part of his tour of the Arab region.

Meets With 'Izzat Ibrahim

JN2606190088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jun (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, here today. During the meeting, the RCC vice chairman received a written message to President Saddam Husayn from U.S. President Ronald Reagan dealing with bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war, and the current situation in the region. They also discussed bilateral relations, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The meeting was attended by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN2606203888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1906 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 June (INA)—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Baghdad today at the end of an official 1-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department, and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad.

Statement Issued on UN Investigation Team

JN2406164088 Baghdad INA in English 1610 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] United Nations, June 24, INA—The Iraqi mission to the United Nations has issued the following statement to the international news media:

"On Tuesday, June 21, 1988, the spokesman for the secretary-general announced that the secretary-general, after his meeting with the Iranian permanent representative, had decided to send a mission to investigate Iranian allegations on the use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

"Upon the announcement of this decision, we expressed our surprise at this hasty decision which was based on an arbitrary interpretation of the informal consultations of the Security Council on this subject.

"After the decision to dispatch the team was made, the permanent representative of Iran notified the Secretariat that his government was not ready to receive the mission.

"This development confirms beyond any doubt that the Iranian authorities do not have the evidence to back up their allegations and fabrications, which coincided with Iran's military defeats on the battlefield in recent months.

"It also confirms beyond any doubt that the Secretariat was once again hasty in responding to unsubstantiated Iranian allegations and lies. We have on many occasions warned that to do so would enable the Iranian regime to continue its maneuvering to block the implementation of Resolution 598.

"This episode should once more convince the Security Council and Secretariat to draw the right conclusion about the situation as a whole and, above all, the refusal of Iran to accept the mandatory resolution (598) and resort to maneuvers and lies to escape sanctions under that resolution which was adopted unanimously eleven months ago.

"Meanwhile, the Iraqi mission regrets to note that at the time the Secretariat takes such hasty decision in dealing with Iranian allegations and lies, it has not taken any action regarding Iraq's request which was made on April 28 (S/19695) by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to dispatch a team to investigate the plight and the fate of Iraqi prisoners of war held in Iran. The ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] has confirmed information indicating that 7,000 Iraqi POW's previously registered with the ICRC are missing, and that the fate of another 20,000 unregistered POW's remain unknown. In addition, the Iranian regime persists in the most abhorent practices of torture, coercion and brain-washing against tens of thousands of Iraqi POW's in order to influence them to take a position against their country.

"This flagrant violation of the Geneva protocols and international humanitarian laws and human norms and values, deserves the immediate attention of the U.N. Secretariat. It is difficult to understand or accept the hesitation on the part of the Secretariat to send a mission we have been repeatedly demanding for the past three months."

Khayrallah Cables President on Majnun Victory

JN2506160288 Baghdad INA in English 1545 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, June 25, INA—General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and defence minister stressed that liberation of Majnun Islands would have important impact in the lessons of capable military action.

General Khayrallah said this heroic operation would directly affect courses of the war in a way that would compel the Iranian enemy to understand the logic of peace and discard the path of evil.

In a telegram to President Saddam Husayn congratulating his excellency on the new Iraqi victory, Gen. Khayrallah said that planning and performance of this blessed operation was high and superior in accuracy and capability and confident accomplishment.

General Khayrallah's telegram said that it was a day of Iraqi wrath that exploded and yielded great epics and that it was part of successive glories of great Iraq in carrying out daring operations for regaining our national territories of the entire northern and southern Majnun.

God has blessed our legitimate defence of our rights and as our flags were hoisted on our dear soil they announced that Iraq would not yield to the greedy aggressors, Gen Khayrallah said.

Majnun Islands Oilfields Reportedly 'Giant'

JN2506162188 Baghdad INA in English 1555 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, June 25, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi has described the northern and southern oilfields of Majnun, which were liberated today by victorious Iraqi Armed Forces, as one of the giant oilfields discovered in Iraq during the past 20 years.

The oilfield, which comprises 11 oil deposits covering 60 km, lies entirely within the Iraqi territory, he said, pointing out that the oilfield's deposits are estimated at 30 billion barrels.

Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim said exploration operations in Majnun oilfield began in 1972 and its first productive oil well was drilled in 1972 in cooperation with an international firm.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Iranians Lose 122 Regiments

JN2506212288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2110 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Majnun Islands, southern sector, 25 Jun (INA)—In a report from the Majnun Islands sector, southern Iraq, tonight an INA team said the Iraqi forces destroyed 122 regiments from the Khomeyni Guard forces during the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah Thaniyatan [We Relied on God Once Again], which liberated the Majnun Islands and the surrounding areas. The Iraqi forces also destroyed several brigades from the regular Iranian forces which were present on the islands. The team added that more than 1,000 Iranian captives were being moved to the rear lines.

Communique No 3,234

JN2706164288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Communique No 3,234 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 June]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our Air Force flew 105 combat missions today, inflicting further losses in personnel and equipment on the enemy. Afterward, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships flew 136 combat missions, inflicting on our apostate enemies further losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Afterward, our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Five enemy troops were killed; 10 various vehicles and 2 120-mm mortars were destroyed; and 2 ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector. Four troops were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. Two enemy troops were killed and one observation post and one infantry position were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. An iron tower and an observation post were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One ammunition dump was blown up and three observation posts and one infantry position were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. One scoundrel was killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

6. A courgeous force from one of our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris raided areas in which the enemy is present opposite them across our

international borders. With any backing from various types of weapons, 12 enemy rafts were destroyed, killing or wounding a number of enemy personnel. The remainder fled, and our force returned safely to base.

In another area in the sector, a patrol of our units clashed with an enemy ambush. Immediately, the enemy ambush was completely destroyed and the patrol returned safely to base.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 June 1988

Qal'at Dizah Shelled

JN2806060288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0544 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jun (INA)—A military spokesman said that the Iranian forces last night shelled the suburbs of the city of Qal'at Dizah and one of the nearby villages with heavy artillery. This resulted in the martyrdom of a child and the injury of seven civilians, including four children and two women.

In a press statement today, the spokesman said that the Iranian artillery shelled the city and the village at 1830 [1430 GMT] yesterday. The shelling also demolished two houses.

Peres Notes 'New Tone' in Abu Sharif Proposal

TA2806112188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today reacted to PLO spokesman Abu Sharif's proposal to launch peace talks with Israel. I notice a new tone in this proposal, said Peres.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I read the entire article. He said that the talks must be held within the framework of an international conference in which first the Palestinian right to self-determination and then their right to a Palestinian state would be accepted, followed by recognition of all the UN resolutions, and so on. These preconditions make the negotiations futile and impossible.

[Rolnik] Is this not a new PLO position?

[Peres] I notice a new tone, but see no new position. [end recording]

Shim'on Peres today toured the Dan Bus Company, where our correspondent Gay Rolnik interviewed him.

Peres, Shamir, Armacost View Tabah, Arab Missiles

TA2806104188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has asked U.S. Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost, who will be leaving for Egypt after a brief stay in Israel, to convey to President Mubarak the message that Israel intends to implement any decision on the Tabah dispute reached by the arbiters.

In a meeting with the 12 ambassadors of the EC countries, Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir said that as far as is known, the decision of the arbiters will be against Israel. Consequently, Tamir noted, arrangements concerning the disputed area are very important. Tamir stressed that "in no way will it be possible to appeal the decision of the arbiters."

In the same meeting, Minister Peres said that the intifada [uprising] could last for 2 to 3 years, as was the case with the 1936-1939 events which resulted in many casualties but did not bring a solution any nearer. Peres called on the EC countries to ratify the protocols with Israel, because the delay is severely damaging farmers, particularly floriculturists.

Armacost, who arrived in Israel for talks in the framework of U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation, said that George Shultz would intercede with the Soviet and PRC leaders to curb the missile race in the Middle East. The acquisition of surface-to-surface missiles by the Arab countries was discussed in Armacost's talks with Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Shamir said that the introduction of missiles to the region is a serious development. [passage omitted]

Peres said there is no chance of breaking the stalemate in the peace process until the elections in November, but noted that in his opinion "the process must be kept alive." Armacost replied that the United States subscribes to this view, and that this is why Shultz will continue his efforts to bring the positions of the sides closer until the last minute.

Shamir told Armacost that in his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, he had felt that the latter was talking about an international conference as a tool for attaining a solution, and added that the Soviets hardly mention bilateral negotiations. In his meeting with Armacost, Peres said that while Israel persists in its willingness to help develop the region, even to the point of being ready to take up joint projects with Egypt, the latter does not go out of its way to maintain good relations with Israel. Peres noted that Egyptian officials had acted against Israel at the ILO conference, that Israel had not been invited to the trade fair in Cairo, and that Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni had boycotted the reception held by President Herzog on the occasion of Israel's Independence Day.

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 28 June in a page 2 report adds that these developments "are incompatible with the peace agreement and the spirit of peace," Foreign Minister Peres asked Armacost to convey Israel's protest to Egypt "over what it terms 'irregularities' in relations between the two countries."]

The inhabitants of the territories who take part in riots are trying to bring the United States closer to the PLO, Prime Minister Shamir told Armacost. He added that the government is determined to fight this phenomenon while displaying maximum self-restraint. Nevertheless, Shamir pointed out, force must be used in countering violence.

Shamir, Peres Remarks

TA2706174188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpts] The American undersecretary of state and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres agreed that in recent years the Soviet Union has showed some self-restraint in the matter of arms supplies to the Arab countries. Moscow had taken the matter seriously and had not provided the Arabs with every missile they asked for. Unfortunately, Peres and Armacost agreed, China had stepped in and was filling the vacuum left by the Soviets. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shamir said the hard core behind the intifada [uprising] is trying to achieve a rapprochement between the United States and the PLO. Otherwise, it is impossible to explain why the intifada continues, when the vast majority of the Palestinian public are tired of it. Shamir said Israel is determined to put an end to the violence.

Foreign Minister Peres told Armacost the intifada shows a total lack of political wisdom, and cannot lead anywhere.

On the question of the international conference, the prime minister's office says Armacost conceded that the Soviet and American positions are still far apart. Prime Minister Shamir said the Soviets feel the international conference is a tool for achieving a settlement virtually without negotiations.

The Foreign Ministry says Armacost and Shim'on Peres agreed that the peace process should be maintained until the elections in Israel and the United States. Armacost said Secretary Shultz is determined not to let his initiative die.

Air Force Flights Over Sinai 'Unintentional'
TA2806101488 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jun 88 p 3

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Egypt has lodged a complaint through the liaison committee against Israeli Air Force flights over the Sinai. An air force investigation showed there had been several flights over the territory, but they were unintentional, as it is not always easy to ascertain where the border is from the air. Israel's answer was transferred to Egypt through the liaison committee.

Former UN Official Says View on Syria 'Dangerous'
TA2506130288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The former chief of the UN Disengagement Force on the Golan Heights, Finnish General Gustav Haegglund, says the view prevalent in Israel that war with Syria is inevitable is dangerous and erroneous. Haegglund told Voice of Israel that both sides realize that the next war on the Golan would reach both Damascus and Tiberias.

He added that Syrian leaders repeatedly told him that their demand for the return of the Golan Heights is only part of a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East.

Haegglund also said both Israel and Syria strictly maintain the separation of forces agreements, and both have a paranoidal instinct to turn marginal incidents into tension-fraught situations.

Peres Urges Japan To Expand Mideast Peace Role
OW2806042988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0118 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Jerusalem, June 28 KYODO—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he wants Japan to play a greater role in seeking peace in the Middle East during an interview here with KYODO news service on Monday.

Peres, also acting prime minister, said he greatly welcomed the visit on Sunday and Monday by Sosuke Uno, the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Israel.

Peres said Japan should play a role at various levels in trying to find peace in he Middle East.

In this connection, Peres said that, generally speaking, it would contribute to peace in the region for Japan to maintain good relations not only with Israel but also with Arab nations.

Peres called for Japan's support in every problem, saying that economic, political and cultural problems are closely linked to each other.

Regarding an international conference for peace in the Middle East as proposed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Peres predicted that a unified Israeli position would come after an Israeli general election in November.

Peres said he favored direct talks among the parties concerned as a basic way toward Middle East peace.

But he showed a flexible attitude toward the holding of the proposed international conference.

Regarding the representation of Palestinians at such a conference, Peres said he preferred a joint delegation of Jordan and Palestinians.

But he rejected independent participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which he said does not recognize Israel's right to exist.

However, Peres' flexibility on the proposed international conference sharply contrasted with the opposition to the idea which has been voiced by the Likud Party led by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

If the Labor Party, of which he is chairman, wins the November general election, Israel would be able to participate in the proposed international conference, he said during the interview.

Touching on anti-Israel violence which has been continuing in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Peres said the issue should be settled politically, not militarily.

In particular, Peres stressed that there are Palestinians who do not belong to the PLO, apparently meaning that he favors negotiations with moderate Palestinians in the area.

Peres made the remarks in response to Japanese Foreign Minister Uno's call for improvements in Israel's occupation policy.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Shamir on Sunday, Uno reiterated that Japan believes Israel should recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination and Arab countries should recognize Israel. Uno also asked Shamir for improvements in the occupation policy.

During the interview, Peres said that though Foreign Minister Uno maintained the Palestinians' right to self-determination, one should not forget that two races are living in one region.

Peres also welcomed the present East-West dialogue being initiated by the United States and the Soviet Union.

He welcomed the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and said he wished that the Soviet Union would supply not weapons but peace in the Middle East conflict.

Tamir on Trade-Peace Link

TA2806083588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Linkage between improved Japan-Israel ties and movement on the peace front is an "unacceptable new element" in relations between the two countries, which Israel will have to fight, Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

Commenting on the 24-hour visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, which ended yesterday morning, Tamir added, however, that the visit "made history" in being the first cabinet-level Japanese visit here. He said it was now up to the business community to exploit the new Japanese openness.

The Japanese linkage, first pronounced as official policy by Uno here on Sunday, applies only to government-sponsored investments and joint projects. It is similar to the Soviet Union's linkage between the establishment of diplomatic relations and the convening of an international conference.

Officials here nevertheless hope that the very fact of the visit will signal to the Japanese business community that contacts with Israel are permissible and advisable. It may also pave the way for regular high-level political meetings. The actual fruits of the visit, they say, will only become apparent in a year or two. [passage omitted]

MK's Europe Visit Aimed at Improved Soviet Ties

TA2606161388 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jun 88 p A2

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Ehud Olmert's secret visit to a European capital was meant to strengthen ties with top elements in the Soviet administration following the Shamir-Shevardnadze meeting in New York last month.

MK Olmert, who returned to Israel on Friday afternoon, refused to disclose any details about his visit. He merely stated that he had gone to a European capital on behalf of the prime minister and that he reported to him upon his return.

MA'ARIV has been told that MK Olmert's mission was similar to the one carried out by MK Dan Meridor several weeks ago. That visit was held several weeks prior to the prime minister's meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at the United Nations in New York. [passage omitted]

Large Numbers of Soviet Jews Visit as Tourists

TA2706132288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jun 88 p A8

[Report by Aharon Pri'el]

[Excerpt] Some 1,700 Jewish tourists from the Soviet Union arrived in Israel in the first 5 months of 1988, as compared to 183 such tourists in all of 1987.

The Jewish tourists arrive in Israel within the framework of visits with relatives. They are taken on organized tours of the country during their stay. Jewish tourists from Moscow and Leningrad told MA'ARIV that the visa offices of large Soviet cities are flooded with requests for tourist visas for Israel, and that "There is no problem getting a tourist visa. The Soviets do not prevent Jews from visiting Israel. The problem is that the officials are unable to deal with the large number of requests, which extends the waiting period to 4 or 5 months." [passage omitted]

USSR Files Civil Suit on Jerusalem Property

TA2606170488 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jun 88 p 2

[Text] Two days ago the Soviet Union filed a civil action against an Israeli body claiming it of trespassing on Soviet-owned property. This is the first time such a suit has been filed.

The charges were submitted in the Jerusalem District Court. They involve the Tirat Bat-Sheva' Hotel in Jerusalem and the Mordekhay and Bat-Sheva' Hayim Foundation in Jerusalem. The plaintiff maintains these bodies are guilty of trespassing.

The Soviet Government is represented by Attorney Ya'aqov Meron who received a power of attorney from Boris Nikolayevich Chaplin, the Soviet deputy foreign minister.

The defendants are charged with trespassing on an area of approximately 200 square meters. This area serves as the entrance to the hotel's parking lot on King George Street in Jerusalem.

In their suit the Soviets maintain that the plot of land involved was registered with the Jerusalem land registration office in the name of the Soviet Government. A photocopy of a 1969 document which supports that argument was appended to the claim.

According to Attorney Meron, the Soviet consular delegation, which has been in Israel for nearly a year, has recently discovered that the defendants have taken possession of some portions of the property owned by the Soviet Government.

Deal With Romania Violates Free Trade Agreement

TA2806100888 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jun 88 p 1

["Exclusive" report from the United States by Tzvi Bar'el]

[Excerpt] Washington—Romania will receive about $80,000 for every Jewish immigrant passing through its territory on his way to Israel and will also be granted "special trade arrangements."

A reliable source familiar with the arrangements for Jewish immigration through Romania told HA'ARETZ that according to an agreement in principle reached with President Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania will receive between $70,000 to $80,000, while the "final price" will depend on the time spent by the immigrant on Romanian soil. The final payment arrangements will apparently be settled by Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Jewish Agency, who is due to leave for Romania.

The sources noted that in the past, Romania had received about $50,000 for every immigrant, but "inflation and the money the Romanian president claims he has to pay to the Soviet Union must now be taken into consideration."

Another privilege is included in a special trade arrangement whereby Romania will be able to export wood and glass products to the United States via Israel. According to this arrangement, the products would be sent to Israel where they would be stamped with a "made in Israel" seal before being shipped to the United States, benefiting from all the tax breaks all Israeli exports enjoy. The U.S. Administration has given its "tacit" approval to this arrangement, which in fact constitutes a violation of the free trade zone agreement.

As far as is known, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead has given his agreement in principle, and so has the U.S. commercial attache [not further specified].

According to the sources, the "ransom" to Romania will be paid by the United Jewish Appeal and from donations to be raised for this purpose. [passage omitted]

Immigrant Payment Deal Denied

TA2806104788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] The prime minister's office and the Jewish Agency have both denied reports from this morning's press that Romania will be paid about $80,000 for every Soviet Jew who comes here via that country. This morning's edition of HA'ARETZ said Romania would also be rewarded with a special trade link with the United States. The paper said Jewish Agency head Simcha Dinitz would agree on the final price on his coming trip to Romania. Reporter Jack Katzenell spoke to Jewish Agency head Dinitz on the issue:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Is there any truth to this allegation by Evans and Novak that the Government of Israel or the United Jewish Appeal is prepared to pay $70,000-$80,000?

[Dinitz] All this story is baseless. I just read it in the paper. I have no idea of such a story, and I think it's all speculation that has no room and no place and only does harm.

[Katzenell] They allege that in the past, $50,000 was paid by the Israeli Government for Romanian Jews leaving for Israel. Is there any truth in that?

[Dinitz] I wasn't involved then in these matters and therefore I cannot comment on them.

[Katzenell] Is there any truth in the report that the American Government is going to give refugee status to Soviet Jews, even if they pass through Israel?

[Dinitz] I just read about it like you in the paper. This is not the situation today, and we have stated our opinion on this that the State of Israel has erased the name of Jewish refugee from the international dictionary, and we are not going to be the one who will restore it.

[Katzenell] So you would oppose such a change?

[Dinitz] Yes. [end recording]

PRC Delegate Attends Research Nurses Congress

TA2706132088 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jun 88 p A16

[Report by Dan Arkin]

[Excerpt] "I needed a special permit from the Chinese Foreign Ministry to participate in the nurses convention in Israel, but I received it without any difficulties," Yu Yeng Lin, the PRC representative to the Congress of Research Nurses, said yesterday. The congress, which opens today in Jerusalem, is attended by 200 research nurses from 19 countries, including 4 from behind the Iron Curtain.

This is the first time an official representative of a PRC workers organization has visited Israel. [passage omitted]

General Staff on 'Lessons Learned' in 'Uprising'

TA2606063688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Jun 88 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The IDF General Staff held a meeting on Friday summing up the 6-month intifada [uprising]. The meeting lasted several hours and was attended by generals in the General Staff. The senior officers summed up IDF activities in the territories during the uprising, and discussed the main lessons learned.

Military sources pointed out that IDF activities in the territories are flexible and continuously changing according to needs and developments. Nevertheless, senior army sources criticize the fact that the IDF usually responds to and does not initiate events. They claim that the IDF should show more initiative, and surprise the organizers and perpetrators of the disturbances.

The military sources say that the violence may take a turn for the worse, and that the inhabitants of the territories might start using regular military means, such as revolvers and rifles. If this happens, the IDF will have to change its tactics.

IDF service in the territories has recently been changed so that most of the soldiers are reservists, and only a few of those involved in ongoing security activities in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are soldiers in the standing army.

The military sources said that deploying reservists in the territories has an advantage, since fewer irregularities have occurred when they are on duty. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 26 June reports on the meeting, adding: "There is also a need to determine the right allocation of forces, to improve their mobility, and to rotate the units serving in the territories."]

IDF Tightens Restrictions on News Media

TA2406093388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jun 88 pp 1, 17

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Covering the territories isn't as easy as it used to be. A growing number of officially imposed restrictions, coupled with an increasingly hostile public attitude towards the media, have eroded press freedom in Israel during the six-month long intifada [uprising].

The erosion is typical of the damage done to democratic values and human rights during the government's drive to suppress the violent revolt in the territories.

The restrictions on press freedom have been incremental, but when viewed from the perspective of the last half-year, they form a comprehensive pattern of limitations.

Schematically, the media strictures form concentric circles. First, access to areas of tension is barred; then, sources of second-hand information are silenced; and finally, the finished news reports are subject to tightened censorship.

Surrounding this system of restrictions like an outer ring is a public atmosphere of hostility to the press, encouraged from time to time by official statements directed against journalists.

Reporters no longer have direct access to areas fo unrest in the territories. It is now standard IDF procedure to declare virtually any scene of major violence a closed military zone—"closed" only to journalists, not to local Arab and Jewish residents.

The official rationale for such action is that the presence of the media encourages further demonstrations and unrest. Reporters have repeatedly been compelled to sneak around army roadblocks in order to get into closed areas, though they face possible loss of their press card if they are caught. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources of information have also been muzzled. The IDF spokesman's office in Jerusalem, once the major source of news for reporters covering the territories, appears now to follow a policy of playing down the scope of unrest by not reporting some incidents and giving only brief, laconic accounts of others. In many cases, tough IDF responses, such as arrest sweeps and closures of villages, are not reported.

Information, in the view of the IDF spokesman, is a weapon in the war with the Palestinians in the territories. He believes that given in the right perspective and quantity, news can be turned to the IDF's advantage, just as Palestinian news accounts are released to further the cause of the intifada.

Information on many punitive administrative and bureaucratic measures taken against Palestinians is not forthcoming from the Civil Administration or the Defence Ministry, in a deliberate attempt to throw up a smoke-screen in the contest with the rebelling population.

Inevitably, the smoke-screen obscures reality not only from the Palestinians but also from Israeli and foreign journalists and their readers, unless they receive information from local Arab sources.

The third circle of information restriction is censorship, which has been tightened on reports from the territories during the uprising. Perceiving the fight against the uprising as a war, the defence establishment has utilized the censor's scissors as a weapon against the uprising leadership.

Censorship has been especially directed at reports covering targets of the uprising leadership. News of resignations by Israeli-appointed Arab public officials has sometimes been censored, as well as reports of attacks on persons suspected of working with the security authorities.

Also censored are the contents of leaflets published by the uprising leadership, and reports of boycott calls by activists. [passage omitted]

The emerging picture is one of a growing rift between the media and the authorities. The government and IDF, perceiving themselves to be at war, have clamped increasing restrictions on journalists for what they believe are overriding reasons of security.

Irresponsible reporting, they argue, serves the other side and unfairly slanders the army, which in fact maintains a high standard of conduct and is guilty of relatively few excesses.

The energy of the authorities, however, appears to have been directed primarily at restricting and chastising the press, rather than tackling the root problems reflected in the correspondents' reports.

The authorities, it seems, are immensely concerned over Israel's image, especially abroad, as if the uprising were primarily a public-relations problem.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

IDF Denies Abuse in Al-Am'ari

TA2706175288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] The army has completed its investigation of several charges of alleged abuse by soldiers in the Al-Am'ari refugee camp in Al-Birah, including an allegation that soldiers used a hypodermic syringe to intimidate camp residents. The army says none of the charges was substantiated. Steve Rodan reports:

[Begin recording] For the past week, residents of the Al-Am'ari refugee camp in Al-Birah have filed repeated complaints about alleged army abuse. Most of the complaints were given to journalists. Today the army responded.

One complaint: Last Thursday, residents said soldiers had vandalized several homes in the camp. The residents said the soldiers smashed television sets and other appliances.

The army spokesman investigated the incident and this afternoon denied the charge. The spokesman said that soldiers entered Al-Am'ari to quell disturbances that included stone throwing and roadblocks. Some of the stone throwers fled into a nearby house and began throwing objects at the oncoming soldiers.

The military spokesman said the commander of the unit broke the window of the door of the home to enter the building. The stone throwers attacked the entering soldiers and the unit fought back. The army spokesman said there was no damage to television sets or furniture.

Another charge made by Al-Am'ari residents was that soldiers had used hypodermic needles to intimidate camp residents. The army investigation showed that the charge was apparently made by a drug addict in the camp.

Soldiers located him and found needle marks on his arm. The army brought the man to the police, but the police refused to arrest him because he was not accused of selling drugs.

In short, the army says it did not find any abuse at Al-Am'ari. [end recording]

E. Jerusalem Anniversary Quiet

TA2806112988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] The anniversary of the annexation of East Jerusalem was marked today by a general commercial strike in the eastern part of the city. The police prevented a group of Herut Movement members from entering the village of Jabal al-Mukabar today. In general, everything is quiet in East Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein is on the phone with the details:

Today has been the quietest day since the dissemination of leaflet No 20 over a week ago. So far no special incidents have been reported, but the commercial strike is complete and all schools are closed.

The streets are empty and a large number of policemen can be seen. The police are employing very large forces in the wake of the call for riots today, the date marking the anniversary of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem.

Earlier a group of Herut Movement activists attempted to enter the village of Jabal al-Mukabar, near the Jewish neighborhood of Armon Haneziv. They arrived in a long convoy of several dozen vehicles with their lights on and waving Israeli flags.

When police prevented them from entering the village, they left the site and proceeded to East Jerusalem's American Colony neighborhood near Herod's Gate. They have since left the place, and so far all is quiet.

Woman Hurt in Firebombed Bus

TA2806081688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] In Bethlehem, three firebombs were thrown this morning at a bus carrying Arab workers to Israel. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that one of the female passengers was wounded as she was getting off the bus. The bus was damaged.

Student Injured in Hebron Riot

TA2706174488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Arab youngsters rioted this afternoon at the Al-Husayn School in Hebron. Reporter Steve Rodan says the army dispersed the students by using tear gas and rubber bullets. Soldiers made several arrests.

An Arab was injured in the leg in the casbah in Nabulus this morning, this after Arabs threw stones at soldiers. The soldiers responded by firing at the rioters.

Economic Punishment Described

TA2806103588 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by Yitzhaq Ravyihya]

[Text] A new form of collective punishment has recently been used against villagers who earn their livelihood from agriculture. The aim is "to hit the Arab where it hurts—his pocket, fields, and livestock." This charge was made by 'Oded Zucker, Citizens Rights Movement Knesset member MK, in a report he wrote af r visits he and other party activists made to a number of villages east of Nabulus.

Those questioned included groups of inhabitants who claimed that the authorities want to impose sanctions on them. They come from the following villages: Dayr al-Hatab, 'Azmut, Salim, Bayt Dajan, and Bayt Surik, all east of Nabulus, and Battir in the Bethlehem area.

Zucker claims that in these villages blockades were converted into a siege accompanied by a long-term curfew whose main aim was to harm all the inhabitants economically.

In Bayt Dajan, for instance, a curfew and siege was imposed for 13 days during which the inhabitants were forbidden to work in their fields and plantations. Zucker said that "fruit and vegetables in the fields in this village and 40 others rotted, having remained unpicked. Inhabitants who tried to work in their fields were punished and IDF night patrols prevented picking and working in the fields under cover of dark."

The report also refers to a ban on herding livestock and preventing goats and lambs from being fed. Zucker said curfews have been converted from a means to deter wrong doing into a punishment that cannot be fought in the courts or appealed against.

The report also discloses the wide use of cutting off water and electricity supplies as a means of punishment (in Battir there was no water of electricity for 5 days). In the village of 'Idnah, agricultural tools were confiscated 3 weeks ago to prevent fields from being worked.

Israeli Arab Administrative Detentions Protested

TA2806050488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Israeli Arab activists charge that security forces are using administrative detentions of Israeli citizens as a new method to prevent legal antigovernment protests within the Israeli Arab sector.

At a news conference yesterday, the activists—representing the nationalist Sons of the Village Movement—said that detentions could lead Israeli Arabs to the conclusion that the government will not tolerate any form of protest, even if it is legal. Steve Rodan reports:

More than 2,000 Arabs in the territories have been placed in administrative detention—that may be a well-known fact. What is not so well known is that the Palestinian uprising has also led to the first administrative detentions in decades of Israeli citizens living within the 1967 borders.

The detainees are all Israeli Arab nationalists with the Sons of the Village Movement. Raja Ghabariyah, editor of the group's newspaper AL-RAYA, spent 3 months in administrative detention. He said he was never interrogated by the security services. [passage omitted]

The movement, which held a news conference in Jerusalem, described detentions as harassment. Representatives of the Sons of the Village Movement maintain that they have never called for violence or organized disturbances. They say the administrative detentions are dangerous because they do not encourage Arabs to carry out legal protest activities.

Liberal, Center Parties Select Knesset Lists

TA2406125288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jun 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—Dan Tikhon was voted to the top spot on the Liberal Party's Knesset list late last night in an all-day meeting of the party's central committee at the Ramada Hotel here. [passage omitted]

The top 12 vote-getters on the Liberal list were (1) Tikhon, (2) [Minister Gid'on] Pat, (3) [Knesset Member (MK) Pinhas] Goldstein, (4) a tie between Uri'el Linn and Ari'el Weinstein, (6) Yehuda Perah, (7) Yosef Goldberg, (8) Pesah Grupper, (9) MK Sarah Doron, (10) Refa'el Farber, (11) Eli Kulas, and (12) Moshe Rom.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 24 June carries a report on page 3, giving the results of the vote on the Center Party's Knesset List. Heading the list is former Minister Amnon Rubinstein of Shinuy. The other candidates for the top Knesset seats are: Attorney Avraham Poraz of Shinuy, Attorney Tzvi Nir of the Independent Liberals, MK Zaydan 'Atshah of Shinuy, Dr Moshe Becker of Shinuy, and Eli'ezer Glaubach of the Independent Liberals.]

New Party Urges Transfer of Arabs in Territories

TA2806081988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Excerpt] A new political movement headed by Reha'am Ze'evi, also known as Gandhi, has decided to compete in the Knesset elections. The movement calls for a population exchange or transfer of the inhabitants of the territories to Arab countries. The name of the new party is Moledet, the Movement of Eretz Yisra'el loyalists. [passage omitted]

June Poll Gauges Ministers' Popularity

TA2706135088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jun 88 p 3

[PORI poll]

[Text] The popularity of David Levi, minister of construction and housing, is higher than that of Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon and of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Finance Minister Moshe Nisim's popularity, on the other hand, has dropped by 9 percent. These are the results of a PORI institute public opinion poll commissioned by HA'ARETZ conducted during the first week of June 1988.

The percentage of those satisfied with David Levi's work as construction and housing minister stands at 35.6, while only 29.8 percent are pleased with Ari'el Sharon's performance as industry and trade minister. Some 32.9 percent are pleased with Shamir as prime minister.

The percentage of those pleased with Nisim dropped from 54.2 in May to 45.2 now.

The percentage of those who are pleased with Shim'on Peres' work as vice prime minister and foreign minister remained stable, standing at 36.8 (versus 36.2 in May.)

Yitzhaq Rabin won the approval of 55.7 percent of the interviewees who expressed satisfaction with him in the role of defense minister, up from 54.3 percent in May.

The poll was conducted on a representative sampling of some 1,200 men and women who were interviewed privately all over Israel.

Crown Prince Hasan on Ties With Palestinians

JN2506090988 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jun 88 pp 4, 10

["Text" of an address by Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, at a ceremony marking the Great Arab Revolt anniversary, held by the Ministry of Youth at Amman's Palace of Culture on 24 June]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon his faithful Arab prophet and all his companions. Honorable brothers and sisters, Husayn's one family: At the beginning of my speech, I welcome on your behalf Jordan's honorable guests, foremost of whom is a dear brother, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn 'Isa, Bahrain's heir apparent. I greet you and bless your efforts as you celebrate this immortal pan-Arab occasion. My love, greetings, and appreciation for all the known and the unknown soldiers inside this hall, and for the sons and youths of Jordan, and the family that maintains this good work. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters: Jordan's pan-Arab stands are genuine and firm in dealing with the contemporary Arab causes, foremost among which is the Palestinian question. Since its establishment, Jordan has been committed to the Palestinian cause, interacting with it and affected by it due to geographical proximity, demographic cohesion, cultural interaction, economic integration, and joint historical experience. Jordan has borne the greatest burden. The increase in the size of population as a result of the 1948 and 1967 wars has added new and immediate burdens. Defense requirements have increased more than ever before. They constitute between 15 and 25 percent of the gross national revenue. Jordan's commitment to the Palestinian cause yielded the unity between the two banks in 1950. This was the wish of the Palestinian people at that time. We are committed to respecting the wishes of the Palestinians. They are completely free now to choose whatever they deem appropriate for them, as they did when they chose unity with Jordan. And we bless their inclinations toward the form and option they take. Moreover, Jordan has clearly defined its position with regard to the peace process and its participation in the international conference for a just and comprehensive solution.

Brothers, when talking about the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, it is useful to go back to the basics; i.e. to the conception that the family is the nucleus of the society, which, in turn, is a nucleus of the political nation. Islam has organized the affairs of the family, considering it a coherent unit. It has defined family relationships, determined responsibilities, and explained the need for family cohesion. From this basic and primary conception of the nucleus of the political nation, the dimensions of what the first leader, His Majesty King Husayn, has been repeating and stressing; namely, that we in Jordan are one family, can be understood.

Dear young people: If we are doomed in this country to be backers of right and callers for closing ranks and healing Arab rifts, Jordan will remain, as you have known it, a window for the Arabs. Jordan, whose capital was a meeting place for Arab liberals, and a shelter for them from foreign colonizers, today has the institutions for internal, Arab, and Islamic dialogue. The Arab Thought Forum has really become a parliament for Arab intellectuals and decisionmakers. Jordan has opened its heart, mind, and doors to this elite group to discuss freely the problems and challenges of the future. [passage omitted]

Japanese Embassy Statement on Palestinians

JN2806074888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Amman—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno has said that everybody agrees that the Palestine question is the crux of the Middle East problem. He asserted that the Japanese Government is very interested in the cause of peace in the Middle East. This came in a news statement released last night by the Japanese Embassy in Amman on Uno's meeting with a number of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. During the meeting, Uno said the Japanese people follow with great sympathy developments in the situation of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that he hopes to search for means through which Japan can contribute and cooperate to push the peace process forward and to improve the Palestinians' living conditions.

The Japanese foreign minister, after his visit to the Al-Duhayshah camp, said that Palestinians living under Israeli occupation are suffering political, economic, and social difficulties, and that some of the measures practiced by the Israeli Government against the Palestinian people constitute a clear violation of international law and human rights. He called for an immediate end to these violations. He also called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities to boost peace efforts. He asserted that the Japanese Government believes that peace in the Middle East should be just, durable and comprehensive, and should be achieved by fully implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and through recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He said that his country's government supports the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, and that it considers the PLO a representative of the Palestinian people, and that it should participate in the peace negotiations.

Release of Hostages Linked With U.S. Election

TA2506193488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] A Lebanese weekly reports that the Iranian Government will release the British hostages in Lebanon on the eve of elections in the United States so as to influence their results. AL-SHIRA' reports the release was agreed to in a meeting between four British parliamentarians and representatives of the Tehran government. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, denied that Britain had officially or otherwise negotiated the release of its hostages.

Reportage on Battle for Control of Shatila

Dissidents Claim Control

NC2706135288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] The inter-Palestinian fighting in the Shatila camp ended today with the Fatah Provisional Command in full control of the 'Arafatist positions in the camp. Intensive political moves are expected to begin soon with regard to the situation in Burj al-Barajinah.

Abu Fadi Hammad, a Fatah—the Uprising official, told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY this afternoon that all 'Arafatist positions in Shatila have fallen and that 40 pro-'Arafat members have joined Fatah—the Uprising. Abu Fadi added that his men have seized all of 'Arafat's arms depots and equipment. He noted that contacts are underway with the brother Syrians and Libyans to determine what steps should be taken against those responsible for the infighting.

Responding to a question about the situation in Burj al-Barajinah, Abu Fadi Hammad said that all the pro-'Arafat gunmen should withdraw to their offices. We insist that matters should return to the situation that prevailed before 1 May 1988.

Abu al-Walid, a Fatah—the Uprising official, has said that 210 pro-'Arafat gunmen have withdrawn. He added that measures are being taken with regard to the detainees, who number less than 40. Abu al-Walid affirmed that the war in Shatila is now over, and that the situation in this camp will return to normal.

Dissidents Blamed

NC2706193988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] A Fatah-the Uprising source said an hour ago that the pro-'Arafat fighters who surrendered in the Shatila camp today will be evacuated to Sidon tonight under the supervision of Syrian forces. The source pointed out that a number of these fighters have joined the Fatah Provisional Command. The same source added that Burj al-Barajinah is calm. Meanwhile, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front held an emergency meeting tonight. In a statement issued at the end of the meeting, they held Fatah-the Uprising responsible for the inter-Palestinian fighting. The Palestinian organizations warned that this would adversely affect inter-Palestinian relations. The statement called for saving the Burj al-Barajinah camp from further bloodshed and victims.

Evacuation Begun

NC2806062888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Excerpts] The camps war, political contacts prior to the elections, and chemical waste are three major issues as the week begins. We will address the Palestinian camps first. According to reports, no security violations have been reported. A state of calm prevails in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps, except for sniper fire reported in the latter. Clashes in the two camps ended yesterday, and a Libyan buffer force entered the Shatila camp. [passage omitted]

A Palestinian source in the Shatila camp has said that 147 persons, mostly 'Arafat followers, gathered in the camp's main shelter and began evacuating at dawn today under the supervision of Libyan Colonel Salim Farajani and Syrian troops. Evacuated were individuals named on lists prepared by the Libyan officers who entered Shatila yesterday, in accordance with an agreement reached yesterday among Libyan, Syrian, Palestinian, and Lebanese representatives.

The convoy of evacuees began moving south at around 0330 today. The convoy stopped at a checkpoint controlled by the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd troops of the Popular Liberation Army at the Al-Awwali bridge, and the guards manning the checkpoint prevented them from entering Sidon. Contacts are underway to find a solution. [passage omitted]

Abu al-Walid, on official of the Fatah Provisional Command, has said that the total number of 'Arafat followers who have withdrawn is 210. He added that measures are being prepared to deal with the detainees, who number no more than 40. Asserting that the war in Shatila has ended, Abu al-Walid has said that normalcy will be restored to the camp. [passage omitted]

PNSF To Take Charge of Security

NC2806061088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] A foreign news agency correspondent has quoted a responsible Palestinian source as saying that Syrian troops deployed around the Shatila camp yesterday afternoon prevented a medical team from entering the camp to evacuate some 20 wounded persons, despite appeals by Libyan officers. It has also been reported tht

the Syrian occupation forces prevented journalists from entering the destroyed camp and kept a close watch on the Burj al-Barajinah camp, where 'Arafat supporters still retain their positions.

In a statement issued last night the DFLP, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party stressed that the conflict between pro-'Arafat and dissident Palestinians in Burj al-Barajinah should be settled on the basis of a return to the situation existing before 1 May, before the pro-'Arafat gunmen overran the dissidents' posts and expelled them from the camp.

A PNSF spokesman has said that the Front will assume responsibility for security in the Shatila camp, closing it for 48 hours for what he termed security measures. The same source added that the Fatah dissidents will hold a press conference today on the situation in the camps and future measures regarding Burj al-Barajinah.

PNO Militiamen Bar Fatah Fighters From Sidon

NC2806055488 Paris AFP in English 0521 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, June 28 (AFP)—The Popular Nasirite Organization (PNO) early Tuesday barred the entry here of a convoy of Palestinian fighters who had earlier been evacuated from the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, correspondents reported.

Militiamen blocked the road at the Al-Awwali River, four kilometers (2.5 miles) north of Sidon, and prevented the passage of two trucks carrying 96 Fatah Palestinians loyal to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, 16 women and four children.

Syrian and Libyan officers in Beirut late Monday agreed on a plan to evacuate the 'Arafat loyalists from Shatila to Sidon after the camp had fallen to rival Palestinian forces belonging to the pro-Syrian Fatah Provisional Command (FPC) of Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha].

The evacuation under Syrian and Libyan protection came after nearly two months of fierce fighting between Fatah and the FPC that left 94 people dead, nearly 500 wounded and reduced the camp to rubble.

"There has been a decision to prevent their (Fatah's) entry into Sidon," said an official of the mainly Sunni Moslem PNO, which controls this port city 43 kilometers (27 miles) south of here.

A Fatah delegation, headed by its military chief for southern Lebanon, Abu Yasir, later met with Sidon authorities and with Usamah Sa'd, PNO vice president.

"It appears that the Palestinians no longer have any refuge in this country," Mr. Yasir commented.

Sidon is home to 100,000 Palestinians, the largest concentration in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Libyan Seeks Entry of Fatah Fighters to Sidon

NC2806100088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Excerpts] Intensified contacts and meetings are continuing among various parties in Sidon in an attempt to allow fighters of the Fatah Central Command to enter the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. A series of meetings is being held with Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization. Sa'd has received a telephone call from a Libyan official in Tripoli, Libya, to discuss this subject. [passage omitted]

Libyan Colonel Salim Farjani has made the following statement: We are surprised by the stand of Mustafa Sa'd, who is known for his historic struggle. I do not know what is preventing our reaching 'Ayn al-Hulwah. We are implementing the initiative of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. God willing, with the help of all brothers, we will be able to solve these problems. We have asked for a meeting with Brother Mustafa Sa'd. We are awaiting his answer so that he may explain to us the reasons preventing our reaching 'Ayn al-Hulwah. We ask everyone to cooperate with us.

Col Farjani also thanked Syria for its stand, which helped him complete the evacuation of fighters of the Fatah Central Command from the Shatila Camp.

A short while ago demonstrations started in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, demanding that the fighters be allowed to reach the camp.

Hammud on Syrian Entry Into Camps To End Clashes

NC2406165888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] Brigadier Geneal 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers team, has said that Syrian forces cannot enter Shatila camp unless all the parties agree on this, as was the case when Syrian forces entered West Beirut and, later, the southern suburb.

Hammud was speaking to a women's delegation from Shatila camp, which visited him to ask the Syrians to enter the camp to stop the fighting. Hammud blamed those who decided to foment the situation in the Beirut camps and tried to expel Fatah-the Uprising from them. These camps, he said, are for all groups, and not for any particular one.

Israelis Lift 'Ayn 'Ata Siege, Release 6

NC2706114888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Excerpt] The Israeli and South Lebanese Army troops lifted their siege on 'Ayn 'Ata this afternoon. Before withdrawal, the Israelis released six persons, including two Lebanese soldiers. To prepare for their withdrawal, the Israeli troops carried out a 30-minute artillery bombardment which caused material damage. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Envoy, Al-Jumayyil Message

JN2506204288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] At 1430 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Joseph al-Hashim, Lebanese minister of health and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's envoy. He conveyed to his excellency a message on the situation in the Lebanese arena.

TISHRIN Cited on Abu Sharif's 'Falsehoods'

JN2706175488 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jun (SANA)—The political editor of TISHRIN wrote an article today in which he discussed the wave of ciriticism leveled against the document written by Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, in the Palestinian, Arab, and international circles.

The editor said that the least that can be said about the call in the document is that it blatantly contradicts the trends of the uprising and the facts that has produced. It also contradicts the resolutions of the Palestinian National Council and fully accepts Israel's right to exist and live in lasting peace and security on the Palestinian territories it occupied in 1948.

The paper referred to the fact that the militant Palestinian factions condemned the contents of this document as a blow to the national struggle and sacrifices of the kinfolk in the occupied territories.

The paper also referred to the criticism of this document by the nationalist forces in the great Arab homeland in light of the flagrant falsehoods it contains, such as the reference to a Palestinian-Israeli disagreement, not to an Arab-Zionist conflict.

The paper said that the nationalist Palestinian and Arab circles found in the document a sign of the continuation of the deviation and surrender policy and an introduction to more free concessions that constitute a blow to the Palestinian question and to the kinfolk's struggle and heroic uprising.

PDRY Industry Minister Arrives on Visit 25 Jun

JN2606094388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus—Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, PDRY minister of industry, trade, and supply, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The PDRY minister was welcomed at Damascus international airport by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Dr 'Uthman paid tribute to the existing fraternal bilateral relations, especially in the fields of economic cooperation and trade exchange. He indicated that the aim of his visit to Syria is to hold talks on developing the current economic and trade cooperation prospects between the two fraternal states and to bolster this cooperation to serve the economic development in both states.

Economic Talks Begin 26 Jun

JN2606185688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Damascus—Economic talks between the Syrian Arab side led by Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the PDRY side led by Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, minister of industry, commerce, and trade began today in the presence of a number of economic, planning, agriculture, industry, tourism, and construction experts in the country.

The meeting reviewed commercial and economic relations between the two sisterly countries and means of developing them and boosting their commercial trade. Experts from both sides are working on a draft of the agreement. The PDRY delegation arrived in the country yesterday on a visit for several days.

Trade Agreement Signed

LD2706215788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] A trade agreement was signed this afternoon between the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic at the premises of the Syrian Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade in Damascus.

The agreement was signed on the Yemeni side by Brother Dr 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, member of the Central Committee and minister of industry, commerce and trade. On the Syrian side the agreement was signed by Brother Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade. The occasion was attended by members of the delegation accompanying the minister and by Brother Muhammad Abduh Sudfah, our ambassador to Syria.

Commentary Examines Role in Lebanon, Elections

JN2506141088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Over the past few days many Lebanese political circles have welcomed Damascus' expressions of willingness to assist the Lebanese brethren and the Syrian hope that the approaching presidential elections will mark a point along the road of national accord. Lebanese circles view the Syrian stand as a positive factor under the current circumstances, helpful in invigorating intra-Lebanese and Beirut-Damascus contacts.

It is useful that there has been an increase in the number of Lebanese factions and parties now listening attentively to the positive and constructive stands and sincere intentions emanating from Damascus to assist Lebanon in extricating itself from an irregular position dictated by internal infighting into a new, comfortable position. This position should open the door to national accord, which could potentially sweep away the obstacles placed by the enemies of Lebanon's unity and national interests, led by the racist Zionist entity in Palestine and those who have adopted the Israeli option wittingly or misguidedly.

When Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said 2 days ago that our minds are open to whatever may help the Lebanese people move from the current state of affairs to a new phase and that we will welcome any new developments that may help open the road before to Lebanese people to weather the storm, he only reiterated a familiar, principled stand and a strategic Syrian decision by President Hafiz al-Asad that we stand alongside Lebanon.

The past few years have proved that Al-Asad's decision has been the guiding principle for Syria's policies in Lebanon and its contacts with the Lebanese brothers or any other parties over the country's concerns. Syria has never swerved from this decision despite all the big sacrifices it has had to make toward keeping its promise and sticking to its principles.

Those who once cast doubt on Syria's intentions and stands in Lebanon have come to realize that only Syria can help the Lebanese and that only Syria is truly willing to assist the Lebanese brethren achieve a national accord to save them from the current irregular situation. They have also come to realize that only Syria can potentially build bridges among the Lebanese for reasons that are only too well known and thus unnecessary to enumerate. Some of these reasons are historical, geographical, demographic, and cultural. Others are rooted in the mutual, national interests of the two sisterly countries. Still other reasons are subjective and are part of Syria's strategy and principles.

Syria has, all along, shown its readiness to help the Lebanese brethren close the irregular file and move to normalcy, which can only be reached through national accord and dialogue as well as the common national denominators that can rally the Lebanese together, protect the unity of their country, assure equality and justice in the community, and put safeguards in place for all the Lebanese and their immediate and long-term future.

If the response to the Syrian offer of help has thus far proved inadequate, the problem lies not with Syria but rather with the failure of certain Lebanese parties, for one reason or another, to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Let bygones be bygones. What really matters now is for the Lebanese to help themselves, learn from past experience, and make the most of the present favorable circumstances and Syria's readiness to assist the march of national dialogue and make the presidential elections a stop down the road to a new and positive situation in Lebanon.

As it has always been, Syria is prepared to extend every possible assistance to the Lebanese brethren in addressing their concerns. Syria's decision as announced by President Hafiz al-Asad is to stand alongside Lebanon. Syria does not favor one group or party over another. Syria is for all Lebanese groups and parties, for all those who have Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and normalcy at heart.

The Lebanese brethren have before them a great opportunity, which they ought to seize. It is possible that the Lebanese brethren have never before been presented with such an opportunity. How the Lebanese react to the Syrian offer will be a measure of their concern for Lebanon, the unity and identity of its people, and its security and future.

Afghanistan

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported

Kabul River Bridge Blown Up

BK2706151988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 27 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels blew up a vital bridge on the Kabul river and seized a major portion of the road linking the garrison town of Jalalabad with the Afghan capital, resistance sources said.

They said a 30-kilometer (19-mile) stretch of the Jalalabad-Kabul road had been in the control of several hundred mujahidin since Thursday and that the guerrillas had repelled an attempt by Kabul government troops to flush them out.

Guerrillas blew up Dargiano [placename as received] Bridge on the Kabul river and attacked government posts on the highway, inflicting heavy casualties in several hours of fighting, the sources said. They also destroyed six tanks and three military trucks in the attack.

The guerrillas, fighting to overthrow the Kabul regime, also destroyed five heavy cannon inside the government posts and captured three rockets and other light weapons including a "considerable quantity" of Kalashnikov assault rifles, the sources said.

The rebels said the Kabul troops could not carry away their dead and that bodies were lying in the area until Sunday.

A government convoy came from Jalalabad to regain the captured road, but "it had to retreat under guerrilla pressure," a rebel spokesman said.

The guerrilla sources said cutting off the highway was part of a mujahidin plan to capture Jalalabad.

Several sources, including Western diplomats here, have said the mujahidin were planning to capture Jalalabad and that a major assault was expected in June once the Soviets had completely withdrawn from the strategic garrison town.

A phased Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan began May 15 under an accord signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan and guaranteed by the United States and Moscow in April. The Soviet Union has agreed to withdraw an estimated 115,000 troops by mid-February.

The attack on Jalalabad was delayed apparently because the government had reinforced its troops there, the diplomatic sources said.

Heavy reinforcements around Jalalabad airport included a large number of Soviet advisers who stayed on in the city amid fears of a rebel takeover, they said.

Resistance sources said the mujahidin have blocked traffic on the road from Jalalabad to the Pakistani border. They added that fighting was in progress near the Khyber Pass, which straddles the border.

Afghan rebels concentrated around Jalalabad belonged to the Jamiyat-e Eslami faction and the Hezb-e Eslami faction headed by Muhammad Yunis Khalis.

Rebel sources said Mr Khalis, already near Jalalabad, last week addressed crowds of several thousand people in towns about 45 kilometers (28 miles) southwest of the town to seek local popular support if the rebels won the town.

Earlier last week the mujahidin attacked a hydroelectric power station and destroyed two transmitters supplying energy to Kabul, the rebels said.

They said guerrillas killed 22 government soldiers and officers and captured a soldier in attacks on four posts surrounding the power station.

The next day Afghan planes bombed two villages killing 16 civilians and one resistance fighter, they said.

Rebels Seize Vardak Capital

BK2806055188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Islamabad, June 28 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin guerrillas have seized Kowt-e 'Ashrow, the capital only about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Kabul of Vardak Province, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCE (ANA) has reported.

Diplomatic and mujahidin sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that they were unable to confirm the report.

ANA, close to the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin group, said in its report Monday that Kowt-e 'Ashrow had fallen to the rebels and that the whole of Vardak Province was currently controlled by mujahidin.

The agency gave no date for the reported fall of Kowt-e 'Ashrow and did not say which rebel group had seized the town.

Qandahar Situation, Casualties

BK2706085588 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Afghan mujahidin claimed to have foiled an attempt by the Soviet-Kabul authorities to send reinforcement to release the pressure around Qandahar city besieged by the mujahidin. They say the advancing

Soviet-Kabul troops have been forced to retreat, leaving behind 21 soldiers dead, several others injured and the wreckage of a tank and 3 armored vehicles.

Another report from Afghanistan says the mujahidin have captured the military camp of (Bekali) in the central part of the country. This followed a fierce battle in which the commander of the Kabul troops along with a number of soldiers were killed. The mujahidin captured 18 of the fleeing troops besides a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition.

Inter-Rebel Clashes in Parvan

LD2806050488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0450 GMT 28 Jun 88

[All personal names as received]

[Text] Kabul, June 27, BAKHTAR—Severe clashes have recently occurred among the extremist groups in different parts of the country due to their internal differences.

As a result of armed clashes occurred between the members of the extremists groups headed by Sahibqul and Engineer Hashim in the suburbs of Parvan Province seven extremists including Engineer Hashim were killed.

During an armed clash occurred between members of the extremist groups headed by 'Aziz Laghary and 'Abdul Wahid in the Badghis Province, twenty people from both sides were killed and tens others wounded.

Memo 34 on Pakistani Violations Submitted to UN

LD2806045988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0453 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 27, BAKHTAR—The thirty fourth notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on violation of Pakistan from the Geneva accords was handed over to the United Nations Good Office Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) today, the liaison office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports.

The notice gave information on six explicit violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan with exact date, place and nature of violations.

The notice asked the UNGOMAP that according to the seventh paragraph of the fourth document of the Geneva accords the matter be investigated and the Afghan side and the special representative of the UN secretary general be informed of its results.

Commentary Examines Violations

LD2806052088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 28 Jun 88

["Commentary on Pakistan's Violations of Geneva Accords"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, June 27, BAKHTAR—Certain circles in Pakistan and the United States apparently shed crocodile tears for the people of Afghanistan but in action they are fuelling war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

During the past one month and eleven days since the starting date of the implementation of Geneva accords, the Republic of Afghanistan has submitted to United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan based in Kabul thirty four notices on the repeated violations by Pakistan of Geneva accords.

The international news sources have also exposed reports on the gross and repeated interference of Pakistan into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The Pakistani authorities have carried by using Pakistani military transport system weapons and munitions from the army division 12 to one of the bases locating [as received] 24 km east of Chaman and have distributed them to the opposition extremist bands in the provinces of Qandahar, Helmand and Ghowr.

Foreign military experts as well as foreign journalists are entering the Republic of Afghanistan by illegally crossing the borders through the territory of Pakistan. In the past week one Pakistani journalist, Ershad Ahmad, who was operating with the opposition extremist groups was killed near Qandahar city.

Reports reaching here say that a group of military advisors consisting of American, French, Chinese, Pakistani and Iranian as well as four representatives of Arab countries entered illegally from Pakistan into the territory of Afghanistan and operated along with the extremist armed groups in Zabol Province.

As a result of an operation by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan on one of the command centres of opposition extremist forces in the suburbs of Zabol Province, forty extremist elements as well as French advisors were killed. In Pakistan, the organisational work of the so-called volunteer groups numbering 3,000 persons aimed at resorting to subversive activities in border areas has already begun.

On June 16, twenty million afghanis was sent from Peshawar to extremist bands who have been keeping up fratricidal war in Herat Province.

The military group of General Ziaul Haq and his American patrons have also intensified its psychological war against the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Radio Voice of America in a commentary published on June 24 tried to indicate that the responsibility of the undeclared war rests with the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, where as it is a fact that the U.S. imperialism and the military regime of Pakistan by arming to teeth the opposition forces killed thousands of Afghans and destroyed villages of Afghanistan.

Our people have identified those who are striving for the realisation of Geneva accords for securing peace, ending war and reconstruction of Afghanistan and those who are endeavouring for bloodshed and destruction.

If the authorities of military regime of Pakistan and those of the United States had sympathy for the people of Afghanistan it would have never violated the Geneva accords.

Meli Shura Discusses Geneva Accords Compliance
LD2806053388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0519 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 27, BAKHTAR—The joint session of the Senate and the House of Representaives was held here today.

At the outset of the session Dr. Mahmud Habibi, speaker of the Senate spoke on the significance and international effects of the Geneva accords.

'Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and foreign minister of Afghanistan read out the report of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan on the Geneva accords.

The reports says that conclusion of the Geneva accords is an important test for the new diplomacy in the world level which were made ready after six years of talks through much efforts of UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar and his envoy Diego Cordovez. This great achievement scored in signing of the Geneva accords as a result of flexible stand and the serious concessions made by the Republic of Afghanistan has opened a shining page in the history of contemporary diplomacy and has left a rich background in world efforts for solution of the regional conflicts.

The report adds that the whole world public is witness of the Pakistani violations and we are making repeated efforts through the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) that the Pakistani side should observe the Geneva agreements. Thirty three notices on 222 cases of violations have been handed over to Pakistan through UNGOMAP to draw attention of the Pakistani leadership in this regard.

Likewise through sending letters, the Afghan side has drawn attention of the UN leadership and leaders of some concerned countries towards violations of the Geneva accords by Pakistan.

Later on messages of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan addressed to the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, peoples and world parliaments were unanimously approved.

After that, resolution of the National Assembly about the report of the Government of Afghanistan in regard to the Geneva accords which was read out by M. 'Omar Safi, secretary of the Senate, was approved unanimously as well.

At the end of the session, 'Abdul Wakil answered the questions raised by the senators and deputies to the House of Representatives on implementation of the Geneva agreements.

In addition to the members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan some domestic and foreign journalists participate in the session as well.

Appeals to Perez de Cuellar
LD2806054188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0510 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 27, BAKHTAR—Deputies in the National Assembly (parliament) in a message are calling upon UN secretary general, Perez de Cuellar to urge Pakistan and its patrons to comply by the provisions of Geneva accords and not to approach irresponsibly to the situation which has come about in Afghanistan.

It should be specified that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has made every effort for the implementation of Geneva accords. The return of the limited Soviet military contingent as per its time frame agreed in Geneva, the provision of facilities for the return of refugees, endeavouring to create a coalition government and honest cooperation of the Republic of Afghanistan with the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan based in Kabul are good instances of this fact.

The parliament in its session today found out from the facts and figures that the Pakistani side evades from its commitment of Geneva accords which has caused grave concern to the people of Afghanistan. Such an approach by Pakistan jeopardises a good model of solving regional problems through peaceful means and constructive dialogue.

Pakistan is practically stepping up the despatch of assorted weapons into the territory of Afghanistan and is taking action in equipping and instigating the extremists against the Government of Afghanistan. The official Pakistani press is continuing like always its hostile propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan and the process of peace, the message indicates.

Contrary to what was agreed upon in Geneva so far the Pakistani side has still placed the leaders and organisation of armed opposition in its territory and has been striving to heighten war in Afghanistan by increasing its military aid to opposition extremists.

Passes Resolution on Accords

LD2806054388 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0504 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Kabul, June 17, BAKHTAR—The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, for the realisation of the contents of the Geneva accords, has resorted to all-sided efforts to attract cooperation of international organisations for the resettlement of the Afghan refugees in their abodes in Afghanistan, says a resolution of the sessions of the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan held here today.

The signing of a protocol with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and establishing of its office in Kabul, negotiations with the organiser of humanistic assistance of the UN nations are among the many to mention here, the resolution adds.

The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have resolutely and honestly observed the Geneva accords and have so far taken practical and specific steps for their realisation, the resolution goes on.

Enforcement of decrees on the restoration of refugees properties, tax and carriers exemption, creation of peace zones in the frontiers, establishing of peace guesthouses in the frontiers and cities, provision of facilities for the return of refugees, the start of the return of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union to their country, on the day of the signing of the Geneva accords, are true proofs to these realities, the resolution says. The National Assembly while completely approving all those mentioned on behalf of the war torn people of Afghanistan asks the government to continue its all-sided attempts for the complete realisation of the Geneva accords.

Intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan must be stopped. Violation of Pakistan of the Geneva accords must be ended. Attention of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) must be attracted in this area, the resolution added.

The Government of Afghanistan is assigned to spare no efforts for provision of further international conditions for the implementation of the Geneva accords, the resolution notes.

"Our war-stricken people are thirsty of peace. The government is assigned to launch an extensive activity for dissemination of realities in the country, in international forums and countries of the world so as all peoples of the world could hear the just and peace voice of our working people" the resolution indicated.

"We want the government to continue its all-sided efforts for the attraction of financial and economic assistance of the countries, institutions and international organisations in realisation of the Geneva accords", the resolution notes.

"Our peace-loving people wants to have good-neighborly and peaceful co-existence relations with neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Iran and the People's Republic of China. We want the government to pay serious attention for meeting this humane aspiration of our people. In this way a lasting peace will prevail in the country and in the region and political settlement of situation around Afghanistan can be turned in to a good beginning for political solution of other regional conflicts, the resolution concludes.

Tehran-Based Rebels Reject Interim Government

LD2706184088 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—The Council of Afghan Muslim Coalition here objected to the composition of the transitional government as announced by Pakistan-based Afghan parties. The council said in a statement that it was not consulted on the issue.

The statement stressed that all Afghan revolutionary parties should be represented in any transitional government in order to safeguard the sovereignty of Afghan Muslims, both Shi'ite and Sunni.

The statement, calling for the formation of a revolutionary council to write the constitution, said the transitional government should arrange general elections for electing a popular government, accepted by all Afghan Muslims.

India

Gandhi, Ministers Review Sri Lankan Situation

BK2706161388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] At a meeting in New Delhi today, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, reviewed the latest developments in Sri Lanka. Those who took part in the discussions were the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; the defense minister, Mr Pant; and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh.

The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr Dixit, who was also present, gave an account of the developments in the island country.

5 Sikh Leaders Term Expulsion 'Illegal'

BK2706162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] The SGPC acting president, Mr Ujagar Singh Rangreta, and four other senior Unified Akali Dal [UAD] leaders have termed their expulsion from the party as illegal. Addressing a news conference in Chandigarh today, they said any such decision can be taken only by the party presidium and added that senior presidium member, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, alone can summon the meeting.

As already reported, the decision on the expulsion was taken at a meeting presided over by the party chief, Baba Joginder Singh, in Ludhiana yesterday. Saying that they do not recognize the Ludhiana meeting, the UAD leaders said the meeting was a family affair of the party chief. Others who addressed the news conference include the SGPC general secretary, Mr Malsingh Ghuman, and executive members, Mr Shivsingh Khushipur, Mr Harisingh Arewara, and Mr Puran Singh.

Talwandi Denies Involvement

BK2806080088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] The senior leader of the Unified Akali Dal, Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi, has dissociated himself from the decision of expelling seven leaders from the party.. He said this in a statement in Ludhiana. The decision of the expulsion was taken at a meeting, presided over by the party chief, Mr Joginder Singh, in Ludhiana on Sunday [26 June].

As already reported, the SGPC acting president, Mr Ujagar Singh Rangreta, and four other senior Unified Akali Dal leaders have termed their expulsion from the party as illegal.

3 Killed in Punjab 'Terrorist' Violence

BK2706125188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were killed and an equal number injured in separate incidents of terrorist violence since last night. In Amritsar District, two farmers were killed and two others injured when terrorists fired indiscriminately in Patti town this afternoon. In Gurdaspur District, a farmer was gunned down in a village near Batala last night. In another incident in the same district one municipal employee was seriously injured following a bomb explosion this morning. The police discovered another bomb in the area which was immediately defused.

Buildings Around Golden Temple Demolished

BK2806032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Excerpt] Work on the implementation of the corridor plan around the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar is on. Resident shopkeepers have started vacating in many localities in the 30 meter area around the Golden Temple. Demolition of buildings, already acquired by the government, is also going on. The project director, Mr (Dixit) told newsmen in Amritsar that a total of 410 sites, including 58 residential houses, had been allotted to the displaced persons so far. [passage omitted]

4 GNLF 'Activists' Killed in Darjeeling

BK2606080088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] Four GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] militants were killed in an exchange of fire with police at (Dilarang) under Kurseong police station this morning.

The DIG [deputy inspector general of police] Darjeeling range told our correspondent that a group of GNLF men ambushed the vehicle of the additional SP [superintendent of police] Kurseong and his escort's convoy. They fired 100 rounds at the police party. Police returned the fire in which four activists were killed. Later, police arrested 11 GNLF militants and recovered 15 bombs and 3 landmines.

Increased Defense Budget for 1988-89 Noted

BK2706093088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the caretaker government has allocated 48.32 billion rupees for defense in the budget for 1988-89. This shows an increase of 6.7 percent over the last year. The finance minister, Mr Mahbubul Haq, presented the budget to the nation over radio and television in absence of Parliament. He said the budget will be for the full financial year, although the caretaker government has the power to authorize expenditure for 4 months only under the constitution. A major step announced by the finance minister relates to restructuring the entire tax system to save the country from what he called near bankruptcy.

Construction of 2 Offshore Patrol Boats Begins

BK2506161988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, today laid the keels of the two offshore patrol vessels being constructed by the Hindustan shipyard at Vishakhapatnam. Mr Pant described the event as an important landmark in the growth of the Navy.

Referring to the militarization of the Indian Ocean and the presence of a large number of foreign ships there, Mr Pant said our Navy should be strengthened to meet any danger.

The chief of the naval staff, Admiral Jayant Nadkarni, said seven offshore patrol vessels will be inducted to protect the Bombay high region. Three vessels are being imported from South Korea and the others will be constructed at the Hindustan shipyard.

Commentary Analyzes Ziaul Haq's Political Moves
BK2506121588 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Commentary by V.S. Maniam of THE STATESMAN: "A Judgment in Pakistan"]

[Text] Earlier last week in Karachi the Supreme Court of Pakistan declared as void some clauses of the Political Parties Act, including one requiring registration of political parties as a precondition for their participation in elections. The clauses were struck down as being inconsistent for the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution of that country.

That important verdict came on a petition filed last year by the Pakistan People's Party leader, Ms Benazir Bhutto. The verdict was something of a breakthrough for that country's political parties inasmuch as it removed some of the humiliating and crippling conditions to which they had to submit themselves even to participate in the democratic process.

In the so-called partyless and nonpolitical elections in February 1985 no political party could take part. In fact, each candidate had to declare on oath that he had not been an office bearer of any party for a sizable number of years and that he had no political manifesto or program. In the fresh elections, which have to be held before the end of August, that kind of declaration should not be necessary since President Ziaul Haq has himself said that these elections would be on a party basis. And the Supreme Court judgment removes the need for the parties to register themselves so as to be able to participate in the elections.

The question, however, is—and it is one that many ask—whether President Ziaul Haq would restrain himself from circumventing that judgment and even whether he would hold elections as he promised on 29 May when he dramatically dissolved the Pakistan National Assembly and dismissed the Mohammad Khan Junejo government. As close observers of the Pakistan scene note, the last time President Ziaul Haq held out the promise of election was in July 1977 and it took him 8 years to fulfill that promise. On 29 May this year he promised elections within 90 days. The very next day in a television address, he said merely that elections would be held according to the constitutional requirements. The present judgment, therefore, may even reinforce his known reluctance to go in for a fresh poll. Such is President Ziaul Haq's record.

There is a provision in the Pakistan Constitution which stipulates explicitly that when the National Assembly or a provincial assembly is dissolved a general election to the assembly shall be held within a period of 90 days after the dissolution. However, there is also a provision which says that where the president dissolves the National Assembly he shall in his discretion appoint a date, not later than 90 days from the date of dissolution, for the holding of a general election to the Assembly.

Will President Ziaul Haq go by the first provision and have the process of fresh elections completed before the end of August, or will he merely fix the date for elections by then? If he does not hold the polls as promised, he will run the risk of losing international credibility and, more important, American support. It is hence that politicians like Ms Benazir Bhutto have openly appealed to the United States to make clear its disapproval of General Ziaul Haq's move away from democracy and pressure him to quickly schedule free elections.

In an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES, Ms Bhutto even wrote that the United States had now a dramatic opportunity to influence Pakistan's history and should not miss that opportunity. She mentioned the likely threat to Pakistan and even the subcontinent's long-term stability if elections are not held as promised. She mentioned that Americans had as much at stake as the people of Pakistan in seeing that country joining the ranks of free democracy. And she pointedly reminded America that it was its foreign and military aid that had for almost a decade propped up General Ziaul Haq's regime, which, she said, had no foundation in constitutional law or free election and was little short of illegitimate and even dangerous.

The desperate message, thus, seemed to have reached home. A resolution tabled last week in the U.S. House of Representatives seeks to make future American aid to Pakistan conditional upon restoration of democracy in that country and specifically calls upon President Ziaul Haq to hold free and fair party-based elections before 26 August.

Meanwhile, the U.S. under secretary of state, Mr Michael Armacost, has said that the dismissal of Mr Junejo by President Ziaul Haq was like a coup. That, incidentally, was also the general Indian reaction to the 29 May announcement by President Ziaul Haq. Some indeed called it Ziaul Haq's second coup.

The question now is will he be content with that coup, or will he go in for yet another by putting off elections, suspending the Constitution and placing Pakistan once again under martial law?

Paper Assails Ziaul Haq's Islamization Policy

BK2706091888 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 18 Jun 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Regressive Changes"]

[Text] As was to be expected, Pakistani President Ziaul Haq has promulgated the shari'a ordinance, which makes Islam the foundation of all laws in Pakistan, without waiting for elections and a new government. The slow progress made towards Islamisation was one of his complaints against the recently-dismissed Junejo government which, despite a majority in the National Assembly, did not push through the ninth constitutional amendment which contained the same provisions as the recent ordinance. Opposition to these changes has been most vociferous from women's groups because it will mean changes in the family laws which will be detrimental to their interest.

Despite the opposition of the Islamic clergy, Pakistani women had succeeded in the past in ensuring basic safeguards in the family laws to protect women through the family laws ordinance of 1961. Until this latest change, bigamy in Pakistan was possible only if the husband obtained the written permission of their first wife for entering into a second marriage. Similarly, oral divorce was not accepted and all marriages and divorces had to be registered with the union councils. A minimum age for marriage, 16 years for girls and 18 years for boys, had also been laid down. The shari'a ordinance will change all this and allow bigamy or polygamy and oral divorce and scrap the provision of compulsory registration of marriages and divorces and the minimum age of marriage because none of these provisions is laid down in Islamic law.

These regressive changes in the family laws will be a blow not just for Pakistani women but for women under Islamic regimes elsewhere who drew inspiration from the courageous struggle of the Pakistani women and who have used the Pakistani example to fight for similar changes in the laws of their own lands. For instance, in 1983, despite the martial law, women's groups in Pakistan publicy demonstrated against and resisted changes in the law of evidence which undercut the credit-worthiness of women by half. For years they have opposed the hudood ordinance which was promulgated in 1979 and confirmed as an act in 1985. This deals with the offences of consumption of drugs and alcohol, rape, adultery, fornication, theft and perjury. The punishment for these offences is now according to the Islamic shari'a.

This law is loaded against women. In particular, the provisions regarding rape make it almost impossible for a woman to prove she was raped. If she is unable to bring home her charge in the Islamic court, she is charged with adultery and jailed. For their opposition to such provisions in law, Pakistani women activists have been beaten, jailed and abused by the religious clergy. Given President Ziaul Haq's determination to impose Islamisation at all costs, the women of Pakistan have a long and hard struggle ahead.

Iran

Musavi Asks Majlis for Vote of Confidence

LD2806081488 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi asked for vote of confidence from the Majlis, the Iranian parliament, today. His request addressed to Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was read in the open session of the Majlis today.

According to parliamentary rules in Iran the prime minister must apply for a vote of confidence from a new parliament within two months after election of a permanent speaker and a vice-speaker for the Majlis. The Majlis will debate and vote on Musavi's bid for another term in office at a session in his presence this Thursday. If reinstated this will be his fourth term in office.

Meanwhile the Majlis on Monday appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali deputy from the city of Qom head of the Majlis Foreign Committee.

Presidential Adviser Returns From Berlin

LD2706171588 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 27 IRNA—Iran has suggested diverting the huge expenditure on stockpiling arms towards growth and development of deprived and oppressed countries, President Khamene'i's high advisor said here today.

Mostafa Mir Salim who returned home from the international conference on nuclear-free zones held in East Berlin, told a press conference that awakening of world conscience, pressure of public opinion, effective control of chemical arms factories and last but not least mutual trust between world countries can guarantee real disarmament.

He said the Iranian delegation warned the conference that in addition to the potential danger of nuclear weapons, chemical arms have so far claimed thousands of innocent lives.

Mir Salim, drawing attention to the close cooperation between the apartheid regime of South Africa and the Al-Quds occupying regime in the field of nuclear arms, cautioned that Muslims in the Middle East are seriously exposed to a nuclear threat from ill-intentioned Zionist regime.

"Agreement should be reached on immunizing the Middle East, Oceania and Latin America from nuclear threats," he stressed.

New Italian Ambassador to Tehran Interviewed
PM2706162988 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 May 88 pp 3-12

[Interview with Vittorio Farinelli, the new Italian ambassador to Tehran, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [RESALAT] Unfortunately, some European members of the UN Security Council, including your own country, have sent warships to the Persian Gulf in violation of several sections of Resolution No 598. This is the same resolution that you yourself helped to pass so it raises many questions and is quite surprising.

[Farinelli] What sections have we rejected and violated?

[RESALAT] Sections 5 and 8 which forbid foreign countries from interfering and increasing the tension. You have violated it with your actions, it is not that you have rejected it.

[Farinelli] Iran believes that our ships' presence in the Persian Gulf contradicts Sections 5 and 8 of Resolution 598; Italy says it does not. These are just two interpretations of the same resolution and I think there may be more interpretations.

[RESALAT] Is there not a body that can remove these doubts and meanings from Security Council resolutions?

[Farinelli] Yes, there is. An arbitration body could be formed or the Council itself could discuss these issues to see if the resolution has been violated. In any case, no independent sources so far have claimed that the resolution has been violated. Iran says it has and Italy says it has not.

[RESALAT] Not only Iran says the resolution has been ignored, other countries such as the Soviet Union say the same thing.

[Farinelli] It is hard for me to talk about the Soviet Union. It has not said anything about the resolution's various sections. The Soviet Union believes that NATO ships cause more tension. Iran believes these ships cause the tension, the tension that originates from the Iran-Iraq war. Italy believes that the fleets' presence is a natural consequence of the war. The war has to end in order for the ships to leave. If I am asked to say whether Iran is in the right, or Italy, of course I would say Italy. I also do not think the Soviet Union is a neutral source. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] What do you think is a practical solution for preventing Iraq from attacking the towns, which it is threatening to do? And, what does the Italian Government, as a neutral government, see for itself?

[Farinelli] Italy has always condemned the use of chemical weapons and has condemned Iraq for using such weapons. It thinks that the only way to prevent the use of chemical weapons is to end the war and establish a lasting peace.

[RESALAT] Does this mean that you confirm these war crimes and consider the war an excuse for these crimes?

[Farinelli] I do not hold that view and I officially condemn Iraq for using chemical weapons. When I said the end of the war would be the only solution to the end of the deployment of chemical weapons, it was an answer to your question about what Italy can do. If there is another workable solution, we will use that also. As you know, there are resolutions such as the 1925 Geneva Accord and the recent one, but you see that these do not work.

[RESALAT] Yet your country has supplied Iraq with some of the chemical weapons used in the war.

[Farinelli] The export of chemical weapons or chemicals as a whole to both countries has been banned. Italy does not have chemical weapons even for its own use.

[RESALAT] In reply to our first question, you said relations between Iran and Italy were good, yet some issues have been left unresolved, including the helicopters which Iran bought and Italy did not deliver. Also, some of the helicopters sent to Italy for repairs have not been returned. At the same time, during the war Italy has given weapons and other military equipment to Iraq. How do you explain this?

[Farinelli] Yes, this is true and this is what Iran thinks. Iran ordered some new helicopters before the war and some helicopters were taken to Italy for repairs after the war. Iran is now accusing Italy of not being neutral by not returning the helicopters and giving Iraq two frigates. With regard to the delivery of the helicopters, I must say that the factory making them is U.S. authorized and is not allowed to export helicopters unless the United States agrees. On the other hand, the frigates were completely Italian produced and we managed to deliver to Iraq 2 of 11 frigates, preventing the delivery of 9. You better not say too much about this, otherwise Iraq will ask for the other nine.

[RESALAT] If Iran is put under more pressure, do you and the other Western countries think Iran will ask the Soviets to intervene in the region? In case of such an invitation, how will the West react?

[Farinelli] First of all, I cannot speak for the West, I can only talk about Italy. Second, one cannot talk in terms of speculation. It is very hard to resolve existing issues let alone possible problems. We are now at each other's throats over present issues. If we were to think about future problems, nuclear weapons undoubtedly would come into it.

[RESALAT] So if we want to provide Italy and the West with more problems, the Soviet Union could be used.

[Farinelli] Iran always has complained about other countries' forcing it to do certain things. I suggest Iran take action, not to see how others react, but moves that are in its own interest. [passage omitted]

Joint Energy Projects With France Supported

LD2506172288 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran is for cooperation with any country which does not have covetous eyes on Iran's natural resources and instead favors justice, a senior Iranian official said here Saturday.

Reza Amrollahi, deputy premier and head of the Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO), said that as history testifies Iran has always been for expansion of ties with France because of its belief that Paris enjoys more freedom than other European countries.

However, he regretted that the French Government failed to make use of the conditions provided for it after the victory of the Isalmic Revolution in 1979.

Amrollahi also blamed the stagnant economic relations between Tehran and Paris on the non-realistic policies adopted by French statesmen in the past.

With the improvement of Tehran-Paris ties, French industrialists too are trying to make good on their past by adopting wise policies, he said.

The French Government's removal of its financial disputes with the Islamic Republic would guarantee its share in implementing key industrial projects, especially in the field of energy, in Iran, Amrollahi concluded.

Tehran TV Comments on 'Colonialist Plots'

NC2606104388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1732 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. The vicissitudes and difficulties faced by us on the war fronts present certain facts which need to be addressed.

1. The first fact is that the Iraqi regime's war against Iran's Islamic Revolution is offensive in nature. In other words, just as in 1980 when the hand of imperialism emerged from the sleeve of the Ba'thist army in an attempt to destroy the Iranian nation's independence and place Khorramshahr, Abadan and other Iranian cities under military occupation, and as long as imperialism has power in the region, this hand will whenever possible resort to an attack against Iran and other revolutionary nations. This is how, with imperialist efforts, Al-Faw has once again become the center from which missiles are fired at Iran's interests, and Mehran has once again become the object of colonialist desires.

2. In this war, the faith of a Muslim is challenged by the iron of the forces of blasphemy. Once the slightest bit of weakness emerges in our faith, the forces of blasphemy will not hesitate to use iron and fire against the Muslims. Iran's Muslim youths need to understand that they should tread the bloody path of battle with a heart filled with devotion and nothing else.

3. Neo-colonialism can be defined as the hand of imperialism hiding in the sleeve of hireling regimes, groups, and individuals, some of which also resort to anti-imperialist slogans. The Middle East has become a laboratory in which the various inhuman methods of neo-colonialism are tested. In this neo-colonialism, the colonialist smiles at his victim while, at the same time, he sucks and drinks his blood. This is why the policy of the economic siege against Iran is coupled with the psychological war waged by colonialism's fifth column against our nation's determination, and this is how all the colonialist's imperialistic efforts against the Islamic Revolution are camouflaged.

4. Our revolution was carried out by the people; it is and should be continued by the people. Those who are committed to this school of thought and to this world movement and who earnestly believe in the liberation of the Muslims after centuries of overt and covert bondage should prepare themselves more than ever for sacrifices for God and for Islam. The battlefronts should be filled with forces. Whoever is able should go to the battlefronts, armed with a devotion and faith as vast as the world. No excuses should be given for those people who believe it is impossible to resist the colonialist plots and to overcome the iron and fire of the colonialists.

We should silence all those voices heard from outside the borders of Muslims' beliefs that speak in one voice of their deceitful grudges and spread despair and hopelessness, wanting only to repeat the experience of the Siffin battle [battle between the armies of 'Ali and Mu'awiyah in 658 A.D.] in contemporary history. This divine test should clarify who is fighting for God. Undoubtedly, divine triumph is near. Forward to the fronts to defend the ideal of 'Ashura!

Tehran TV on U.S. Psychological Warfare

NC2706113788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the compassionate. Who does Iran belong to? Had this question been asked prior to the revolution, the answer given by someone who was unaware of the depth of Iran's problems would have been: Iran belongs to the shah. He is the owner of this country and its people; all its people are his subjects and slaves. He is the legislator, judge, and enforcer. He does whatever he wants to, and cuts off any head that rises to oppose him.

However, someone who was aware of the depth of Iran's problems would have answered: Iran belongs to the United States. It is the United States that made and preserved the shah as Iran's ruler. It is the hand of the United States that operates from the sleeve of the shah. The United States is the owner of Iran's waters, soils, mines, and resources. It takes Iran's gas, oil, and uranium in exchange for refrigerators, freezers, toiletries, and consumer goods; and whoever opposes the United States in Iran is considered guilty and punished accordingly.

However, since the revolution, the answer to this question is: Iran belongs to the Iranian people, to each individual Iranian—whether a farmer, a city-dweller, a worker, a student, a clegyman, a shopkeeper, or an artisan. Iran belongs to the Iranians, and no one except the Iranians will defend it. It is important for all of us to understand that we are the owners of this country. We must believe that Iran belongs to us and that we should preserve and save it from the clutches of its enemies.

You have often seen that when two people have a conflict over the ownership of a house, the courts or legal and executive branches may review the case for as long as 50 years so that ultimately they can prove the true ownership of the house in question. Do you expect the United States, which left Iran 10 years ago and whose hands have been cut off from Iran's waters, soils, oil, and gas, to give up so easily and to say: No, I have nothing to do with Iran now, I have handed Iran over to the Iranians?

Of course, this is exactly what the United States has been saying, yet its actions say exactly the opposite. It is the hand of the United States which has emerged from Saddam's sleeve. American money has armed the counterrevolution, and American programming has brought about a psychological war against the Iranians, both at home and abroad. The reality of American maneuvers becomes clear, particularly when we bear in mind that the Iranian nation has carried out its revolution in the name of God, and that a revolution carried out in the name of God can destroy all the interests of the arch-Satan.

While the wound inflicted on U.S. interests by our nation is still fresh, it is useless to expect that the United States will leave us alone. Nationalistic feeling in the United States dictates that the United States should try as much as it can to get Iran back into its clutches. How? With the military strength of the U.S. Armed Forces? No. The U.S. Armed Forces are only a scarecrow in the cornfield of U.S. interests. The true strength of the United States can be found in the political, information, propaganda, and cultural mischief it makes and in its encouragement of the military machine of such hireling regimes in the region as Iraq and Egypt.

This is why you see regimes that have never fought Israel for 10 long days to liberate the Palestinian nation have been fighting with all their might for 10 years now against the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian nation. This war truly manifests the real meaning of Arab reactionaries's subservience. In other words, at a time when thousands of Palestinian girls are dying after drinking poisoned water, and the arms of thousands of Palestinian youths are being broken with stones and axes, the heads of the reactionary Arab regimes are congratulating each other on the success scored in the war against Iran's Islamic and anti-imperialist revolution. The hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], who cannot even be compared with the reactionary Arab shaykhs where subservience and moral and political corruption are concerned, have begun to compete with their immediate leaders—that is, the military and information leaders of Arab reaction—to see who will best serve the United States.

What should be done under such conditions? Naturally, Iran and Islam must be defended. Iran is ours. It is our homeland and our home. Our flesh and blood are made of the water and soil of this country. Its mines and resources are ours, and its sorrows and joys are ours. We should defend Iran from the clutches of the United States and we should not allow it to again dominate Iran through its mercenaries, who are counting the minutes until they can bow their heads before it. The hand of each traitor must be broken, and the Iranian must keep his pride under the banner "God is great," and shout praise of God. Otherwise, the coming generation will ask us: Why did you not fight hard for your political and cultural life so that you could pave the way for the freedom of future generations?

Therefore, a presence on the fronts, the correct implementation of all things, an understanding by each Iranian that Iran belongs to the Iranians, a proper program for progress, and the removal of the covetous eye from Iran's interests are the Islamic and canonical duties of each and every one of us. Those who go to the battlefronts should know it is not enough simply to be present on the battlefronts. They must be defended. The overall supervision of the trend of the war should be strengthened to such an extent that no one will dare to doubt that resistance should be continued. This is our duty. Forward to the fronts. Forward to the fronts.

Editorial Views Operations, Algiers Summit

NC2406193888 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jun 88 p 1

[Editorial entitled "The Enemy Should Expect Shattering Operations Everywhere"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The crushing "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-7" operations were launched with the purpose of inflicting a swift and debilitating blow on the enemy's war machinery. Within a few hours the fighters of Islam had rendered more than 20,000 of the enemy's troops inoperational and had captured more than 2,000.

The operations were launched with lightning speed in conditions that took the cowardly Ba'thist enemy unawares. Their commanders were taken prisoner by the forces of Islam in a most unexpected manner. The "Bayt ol-Moqaddas" operations were a successful experiment in the use of new war tactics which can henceforth be used against the enemy on all fronts. The Iraqi Ba'thist enemy should expect to receive such incapacitating blows along the entire length of the fronts, and can rest assured that in the future it will not be able to achieve anything in its attempts to retaliate or counterattack, except to push its operational forces into the jaws of death.

This is no idle threat. It is a statement of the most natural consequences of the Islamic forces' victory resulting from the use of "new war tactics against the enemy." This victory plunged the enemy into such confusion and humiliation that it lost 20,000 of its troops in one blow. In addition, amazing secret information about the enemy forces' vulnerability on the fronts fell into the hands of the Islamic forces.

According to the remarks of senior Iraqi officers themselves, the operations can be considered the final blow to the Ba'thist forces on the southern fronts and the best opportunity to inflict losses on the aggressors. [passage omitted] Therefore, the dispatch of fresh forces to the fronts in such circumstances is a very important and sensitive matter. The dispatch centers have declared their readiness to accept more volunteers. In view of the current conditions, this seems to be an opportune moment, which should be fully exploited, to inflict shattering blows on the enemy's war machine.

The massive wave of dispatches of the "Mohammad, Peace Be Upon Him, Corps" in the past few days is an indication of the fact that the nation has accurately gauged the importance of the situation. The massive dispatches present no problem because the fronts are able to absorb greater manpower at the present time. Furthermore, the enemy is, as all are aware, in a position in which every blow has a doubly weakening effect on it and makes the path to victory even shorter.

The anxiety and perturbation which have gripped the enemy at the fronts, the increasing apprehension in the ranks of the supporters of Iraq, and the general impotence of the decisionmaking and command centers of the enemy constitute clear evidence and indicate that all conditions are favorable for paving the way to victory. [passage omitted]

There is no longer any ambiguity about the support of Arab reactionaries for the war criminals ruling Iraq. The situation requires no further elaboration or justification. The Arab reactionaries have been given the task of supporting a criminal regime that initiated a confrontation with the Islamic Revolution as instructed by the United States. The question is: Why did the progressive Arab front not react firmly and effectively in Algiers? We had no such expectations from the Arab reactionaries but we did not expect the progressive Arab front to remain so docile and inert.

It was not a great surprise when the Arab reactionary front endeavored to carry out its assigned task at the Fes and Amman conferences, particularly as it was merely playing host to these conferences, but did it behoove the Algiers meeting to play host to traitors? [passage omitted]

What motives did Algeria have in convening this conference? Did it attain its objectives? Whatever Algeria's answer to these questions may be, one point is extremely clear: Such traitorous sessions are inauspicious even for Arab reactionaries and only serve to drive them further away from their objectives. Shortly after the Amman summit, the bloody Palestinian uprising began which badly shook the Arab reactionaries. They congregated in Amman to barter away the Palestinians' aspirations. However, the resolutions approved at the session were "vetoed" in an unexpected and amazing manner by the Palestinian Muslims in the occupied areas with their own blood!

Arab reactionaries became even more obnoxious at the Algiers meeting and congratulated Ba'thist Iraq on its crimes. This served to inflame the revolutionary fury of the Islamic fighters, who trampled upon the discussions and resolutions of the Algiers conference and obliterated them with the crushing "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-7" operations. [passage omitted]

Now the Arab reactionaries are facing indifference from all sides. On the one hand, nations have risen up to confront the traitors and on the other, the oppressive powers are also indifferent to Arab reactionaries. According to reports, immediately after the Arab summit in Algiers, the Israeli Cabinet instructed nonmilitary Zionists to fire at Palestinians and shoot them. The Arab leaders are stretching out their hands toward Israel and making a the countries of the region the targets of their contempt, while Israel, in just one audacious move, blatantly ordered the massacre of Palestinians.

The regional nations have no recourse but to fully comprehend the delicacy of the situation and these issues, and to take steps to end this sorrowful state of affairs. This is the conclusion at last reached by some nations, and they are seeking a way out so that the area may be purged of the scourge of traitors and mercenaries of oppression.

Iraqi Claim of Qal'at Dizah Shelling Denied

LD2806131788 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically denied an Iraqi claim that Iranian forces have shelled Qal'at Dizah town and a nearby village, northeastern Iraq, during Monday afternoon.

The WIH spokesman said that such "baseless claims", which have time and again been raised by the Baghdad regime, are of no value.

The Baghdad regime, still continuing its use of chemical arms, despite open opposition of all countries around the globe to deployment of such weapons, resorts to such allegations in a bid to divert world public attention from its criminal acts.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,246

LD2706164988 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets on their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday reconnoitered 24 vessels of various kinds, according to a military communique released here Monday.

The 3246th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units in addition to monitoring movement of nine foreign vessels in the southern waters yesterday, intercepted and searched an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf but allowed it to continue voyage after observing no suspicious cargo aboard.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields sunday raging somewhat more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin and Shiller [placename as received], western and southern fronts, where a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two enemy tanks destroyed.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces heavily shelled Iraqi positions in zones of their influence yesterday, destroying an enemy loader, an observation post and a vehicle.

In the western fronts, Iraqi logistical activities in Kani-Shykh, Maymak, Mehran and Nahr 'Anbar were checked by Iranian artillery fire Sunday as a result of which a number of enemy vehicles were damaged, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Offensive Repelled

LD2806112688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Dear listeners: I draw your attention to a report which has been just handed to me. The IRGC General Staff has issued a statement announcing the following: The Armed Forces of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, in an attempt to capture positions uner the control of the Islamic forces in the Darband-i Khan region and the (Shaykh Shemiran Heights), launched an offensive last night. In spite of the repeated use of chemical weapons, the enemy was faced with courageous resistance and bravery by the fighters of Islam. The enemy was forced to retreat after suffering heavy damage and casualties. The IRGC Ground Forces used intensive artillery in this operation.

The 2d Brigade and two independent commando battalions from the 36th Division of the Iraqi forces were 70 percent destroyed. Other enemy units stationed in the general Darband-i Khan area sustained heavy casualties. In this confrontation, thousands of aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces personnel were killed or wounded. A large number, including Major Rafi' Ebrahim Ahmad, the commander of the 3d Battalion of the commando brigade of the I Corps, and Second Lieutenant Hamid Mahmud Hasan from the 1st Commando Battalion of the Iraqi forces, were captured by fighters of Islam. The same report indicates that among the corpses of Iraqi military personnel left in the region, the bodies of the two battalion commanders of the 2d Commando Brigade of the Iraqi forces can be seen. According to the latest reports, an Iraqi plane was also downed by the anti-aircraft defense unit of the IRGC in the general Darband-i Khan region.

IRGC's Rahmani Praises Kurdistan Volunteers

LD2506131388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Jun 88

[Text] The dispatch of volunteers to the battlefronts from Kurdistan Province is very striking, considering the size of the population and some current difficulties. In the last 2 years more than 6,000 Kurdish brothers, both Sunnis and Shi'ites have been in the theaters of war.

IRNA reports that Mr Rahmani, the official in charge of the IRGC Mobilization unit, gave this information and expressed appreciation for the people's continued donations from the Kurdistan Province. He said: The readiness of the (?selfless) Muslim Kurdish people to be dispatched to the battlefronts of the war against the Zionist enemy is exceptional if not unique.

Peshmerga Destroy 2 Iraqi Bases in Irbil
LD2706185688 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 27, IRNA—In the course of two separate operations, Iraq's Kurdish Hizbollah peshmerga destroyed two bases of the Iraqi regime's forces in Sameh and Shiwanmazi [names as received] regions in Irbil Province over the past week.

According to Ramadan Headquarters, over 50 Ba'thist troops were killed or wounded in the course of the said operations.

Opposition Leader Mas'ud Rajavi Interviewed
JN2706192888 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 24 Jun 88 pp 56-59

[Sana' al-Sa'id report from Iraq on an interview with Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council and commander in chief of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA], in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpt] AL-MUSAWAR meets with Mas'ud Rajavi, who talks about his organization, army, and its operations, the latest and most famous of which was the "Bright Sun" operation on 27 March. That was a wide-scale operation, described by Rajavi as indicative that the military apparatus of Mojahedin-e Khalq has matured and that the destruction of the Khomeyniite suppression and repression has begun.

The INLA is proud of the "Bright Sun" operation. It is the first operation conducted on a brigade level, launched in Khuzestan along a 30-km front. Under the leadership of Mas'ud Rajavi, the INLA succeeded in controlling 600 square km of Iranian territory. Iran lost 2,000 soldiers, and 1,500 others were wounded. The army captured 508 soldiers and $100 million worth of weapons and equipment.

I ask Mas'ud Rajavi about Khomeyni, and he says: His crises are numerous, whether inside his regime or through the blows dealt to him by our army, the INLA, the latest being when "Bright Sun"—which marked the beginning of the end of Khomeyni's regime—destroyed the regime's 77th division.

The "Bright Sun" operation marked the beginning of a new phase in the war of liberation. It deepened the possibility of a victory by the resistance. The crises of the regime are numerous, as seen in its defeats by the Iraqi forces, the latest of which took place in Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh]. They are also seen in the international isolation from which it is suffering today.

I ask Mas'ud Rajavi: Does this implicitly indicate the beginning of the Khomeyni regime's collapse? How does this affect the aim of the National Resistance Council?

He says: After its internal and external defeats, its deep regional and international isolation, and its exposure as an exporter of terrorism and war lover, the Khomeyni regime is about to collapse. The aim of our council is to overthrow this regime, which thrives on oppression and lacks popular legitimacy.

I ask: Does this mean a good alternative is available?

He says: Yes. The alternative lies in our council—the Iranian National Resistance Council—and the Provisional Government of the Iranian Islamic Democratic Republic. Our council provides the only democratic alternative to the anti-human and anti-civilization Khomeyni regime. It promises peace, stability, and security. Khomeyni and his institutions have lost credibility through his media and his adherence to absolute jurisdiction.

I ask him: As you are talking about peace, what do you think about Resolution No 598?

He answers: We demand its implementation. We also demand an arms embargo against the Khomeyni regime, a regime that insists on continuing a destructive war. The evidence for this is lies in the fact that we signed a peace agreement with Iraq in 1982. We claim legitimacy.

Khomeyni and his regime persisted in evading the acceptance of the unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution No 598. Consequently, they managed to prevent the adoption of a resolution imposing an arms embargo against Iran. Khomeyni has fanned the flames of war, but he was disappointed, and his failure was proven in the battlefield. He suffered two successive defeats in Al-Faw and Al-Shalamjah. These two defeats ended the illusion of the numerical supremacy of the Iranian forces.

I ask Rajavi: The Mecca incidents of last July make us wonder if such incidents may be repeated during this pilgrimage season.

He says: Khomeyni and his regime embody the source of war, crises, and terrorism in this region. He does not care even if he causes bloodshed at the sacred Ka'bah. He is the enemy of God, religion, and all Muslims. He has done more harm to Islam and the Muslims than anyone else. Khomeyni will not abandon his terrorism. Therefore, the language of force must be used against him. I personally welcomed the wise decision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sever its relations with him. That was an urgent and necessary step to curb Khomeyni. I am looking forward to seeing the other Islamic countries follow the Saudi example and break off relations with Khomeyni.

I appeal to the world in general and to the two superpowers in particular to sever relations with the Khomeyni regime and impose an arms and oil embargo. I appeal to all international organizations, starting with

the United Nations and ending with the ICO to oust the illegitimate Khomeyni regime. This regime has the most violations of human rights in its black record of crimes against man. It executed more than 70,000 Iranians. It is torturing some 140,000 political prisoners. Its method for survival depends on liquidation, execution, and burning people alive. There are many records on his victims, from 13-year olds to 60-year olds. The regime is a symbol of terrorism, thirst for war, and dictatorship.

In one of the training camps, a 3-hour drive from Baghdad, I saw many members of the liberation army who were talking about the "Bright Sun" battle. In the assessment of everybody here, the battle was the strongest launched by the resistance under the leadership of Mas'ud Rajavi and his deputy, his wife Mariam Rajavi. "The battle was decisive," said Nadir Rafi' Jad, the Mojahedin-e Khalq international secretary.

He adds: The national army was formed to achieve a strategy of resistance based on attack and destruction. In its operations, the army moved gradually, from company to battalion to brigade level. The army works according to a strategy that ultimately aims to overthrow the Khomeyni regime.

The National Resistance Council was founded in 1981. Its sessions are held periodically. If we ask about the political forces that comprise the Iranian resistance front, we find that all the Iranian political trends—some 13 political and social parties and trends—comprise the council. Mojahedin-e Khalq is one of these. The Tudeh Party is not included because it was expelled by the people. The reason, as Nadir Rafi' Jad tells me, is that it dealt and collaborated with Khomeyni in spying against the National Front and sending us to prisons.

One might ask: What does the dispute in the structure of the Iranian authority reflect? What about the conflict between the factions? Can it produce contradictions in the nature of each faction as regards its closeness to or distance from radicalism?

Nadir Rafi' Jad answers: All factions are the same. The conflict between them is only a struggle for power. The race is between vicious dogs. The Khomeyni regime was, therefore, always susceptible to splitting. Perhaps one of the reasons that prompts him to adhere to the war is to curb contradictions inside his regime. War is declared and threatened so that these contradictions may not grow and escalate. He adds: Since last winter and as of the beginning of this year we have realized that the Khomeyni regime has reached such a crisis level that Khomeyni cannot currently launch a major land attack, particularly in the southern front. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Afghan Charge Summoned Over 'Unprovoked Attack'

BK2706154888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Pakistan has complained to the UN Good Offices Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan about the bomb blast in a hotel in Peshawar on Saturday [25 June]. Fourteen people were killed in the blast. The complaint said that the incident is yet another example of the campaign of subversion unleashed by the Kabul regime in Pakistan, and that it blatantly violates the Geneva agreement. The mission has been asked to raise the issue with the Kabul regime in an appropriate manner.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Armed Forces on Saturday fired two tank shells which fell 5 kms southwest of Chaman in Baluchistan, killing one woman and injuring two others. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and a protest note was delivered to him over this unprovoked attack.

Finance Minister Announces Budget Details

BK2606162888 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Jun 88

[Text] The federal budget for the next fiscal year was announced this evening. Announcing the budget over radio and television network, the federal finance minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, said the budget would be for the full financial year. However, the executive would be entitled to spend out of it only for 4 months. He said the budget has been prepared in the light of the principles of Islamic economy and guidelines given by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in his speech last night.

Dr Mahbubul Haq described three priorities which constitute the basis of the budget: To consolidate the national economy in accordance with principles of Islamic justice, to reorganize the national economy and productive activities by providing greater scope to the private sector, and to offset deficit in the budget, reduce nondevelopmental expenditure and bring about equitable changes in the taxation system.

The finance minister said a number of decisions have been taken keeping in view these priorities. Corruption and sifarish [nepotism] will be rooted out and the principle of merit will be strictly adhered to in providing employment. He announced the institution of a jahez [dowry] fund with initial government contribution of 200 million rupees to help in arranging marriages of poor girls.

Residential plots will be provided to low-paid employees free of cost. On the other hand, plots allotted in the past 3 years as a political bribe will be taken back or their sale proceeds will be recovered.

Practical measures are being taken for the welfare of workers. Under a welfare fund, 1,300 million rupees, now in bank, would be used for the benefit of workers through their participation in investment on a profit and loss basis. A new bank will be set up to provide loans exclusively to small growers. They would continue to receive loans also from the Agricultural Development Bank.

In the new budget several measures have been taken to provide relief to the salaried class. The indexation system has been restored. As for pensioners, there will be increase in their pensions proportionate to increase in prices. Minimum pension has been fixed at 300 rupees. Pension for widows restored in 1985 would be given to them throughout their life with increase and dearness [cost of living] allowance.

A national trust headed by the president himself has been set up for welfare of disabled children and 400 million rupees have been provided in this regard.

Under steps to ensure interest-free economy, three kinds of bonds would be issued from the 1st of next month which would not carry fix rate of profit.

Funds for development programs of provincial governments are being substantially increased. The government would extend maximum encouragement to non-official institutions catering to welfare needs of people.

Dr Mahbubul Haq announced measures for off-setting deficit in the budget. The measures include reduction in government expenditures, tax evasion, and exploring and mobilizing more resources. A new tax system is being introduced from the next fiscal year under which every income tax payer would be allotted a specific tax number. A detailed survey of shops and properties would be carried out. Deterrent punishments have been proposed for tax evasion ranging between 3 and 13 years of rigorous imprisonment.

The federal budget provides development outlay of 47.145 billion rupees. With WAPDA's [water and power development authority's] self-finance program of 7.25 billion rupees and OGDC's [oil and gas development corporation's] program of 1.69 billion rupees, the total ADP [annual development program] outlay would be to the tune of 56.085 billion rupees.

More on Financial Measures

BK2706121688 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jun 88

[Text] Executive instructions and ordinance are to be issued in the next few days to ensure implementation of the measures announced in the budget. These would be to mold the economic system on Islamic principles of justice and fair play—Adl o Ehsan—to strengthen the economy, [and for] rapid industrialization, creation of employment opportunities, and tax reforms. This was stated by the federal finance minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, while explaining the budgetary measures at a news conference in Islamabad today.

He said the central point of the budget is that the government would try to reorient distribution of limited national resources in favor of the poor. He recalled that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had made it clear that this is a framework within which the government would proceed. The budget, which has been prepared under the explicit direction and guidance of the president, reflects the aspirations of the nation.

The federal minister was confident that it would be appreciated by the silent majority—the widows, the poor and low-income group, and the middle class. However, it will be viciously attacked by those who had exploited the economic system.

Italian Defense Ministry Official Meets Ziaul Haq

BK2206085588 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Jun 88

[Text] The secretary general of the Italian Ministry of Defense, General (Louis G. Cicani), currently on an official visit to Pakistan, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad this morning and discussed matters of mutual interest with him. The secretary of defense, the Italian ambassador to Pakistan, and the members of Gen Cicani's entourage were also present on the occasion.

DPRK Prime Minister Stops Over at Karachi 24 Jun

BK2406162688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] The DPRK prime minister, Mr Yi Kun-mo, made a brief stopover in Karachi today on his way home after an official visit to Iran. During his stay, he exchanged views with the federal minister for education, Wazir Ahmed Jogezai, on matters of mutual interest. The education minister and other officials received the DPRK prime minister on his arrival in Karachi and later saw him off.

Sri Lanka

Attempt on Life of Deputy Minister Foiled

BK2706140588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1230 GMT 27 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 27 (LANKAPUVATH)—One person was shot dead when security personnel opened fire at 2 unidentified persons when they tried to shoot at deputy minister, Gamini Athukorale at 1040 hours (local time) this morning.

Police sources told LANKAPUVATH that deputy minister for youth affairs and employment, Gamini Athukorale, stopped by at the Udanuriella post office in Sri Lanka's Ratnapura District to take a telephone call when the 2 assailants came along riding a motorcycle. The security staff were alerted when they saw one of them carrying a black object in his hand.

The security personnel opened fire when the 2 gunmen tried to escape after they had been asked to stop.

One assailant was killed. A T-56 rifle and 30 rounds of ammunition were later found on his person. The other assailant escaped.

2 LTTE Leaders Killed in 'Checkmate' Operation

BK2406114288 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jun 88

[Text] The LTTE lost its two top leaders in Batticaloa in confrontation with Indian Peacekeeping Force. The death of these two, Arasan and Eeswaran, has left the LTTE leaderless in the district after nearly 3 months of terrorist activities. Losses to the LTTE gang in recent weeks since the launching of the Indian Peacekeeping Force operations codenamed "Checkmate" have been extremely severe.

The two gangsters were killed while leading a major action against IPKF in (Kasamaduwa) area. Twenty hardcore LTTE terrorists were [words indistinct] and arrested after the death of the two gangsters.

Five terrorist suspects were arrested near the bus stand in Jaffna town and at Vavuniya, six terrorist suspects were detained. The terrorist suspect named Punniyamurthy was also arrested in Batticaloa.

IPKF Continues Operations

BK2406144488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1327 GMT 24 Jun 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, 24 June (LANKAPUVATH)—The IPKF staged a series of operations, as it relentlessly pursued the LTTE in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the Indian troops, lying in ambush killed two LTTE terrorists at Mamangam, Batticaloa. The two had opened fire at the IPKF, when challenged. One of them was identified as Arason. An AK-47 rifle with one magazine and a hand grenade were seized.

The IPKF also ambushed Mariyanesan of LTTE along with four others. Mariyanesan died due to gun shot injuries and the other four suspects escaped.

A report from Jaffna states, in a search operation by IPKF at Kopai north, two kg of explosives were seized. [passage omitted]

A report from Gampaha states, on information police located a safehouse of JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] terrorists and unearthed an aluminum box from the estate containing the following items—twenty-six 5.56 LMG [light machine gun] ammunition, twelve 5.56 empties, four 9mm ammunition, one 9mm empty, five .303 ammunition, one .303 empty, six 7.62 empty, one 36 [as received] hand grenade, four kgs gun powder.

A man named Wirittamullagamage Piyadasa (26) of Arold of Andaragasyaya, Magama in the deep south was shot and killed. The deceased is believed to have been a voter at the Provincial Council elections and the police have found a threatening letter in his pocket which had been sent by Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya [DJV]. [passage omitted]

On information, security forces cordoned the house of Sunil Weeratunga alias Ambalangoda Kade Ralahamy, Kirinda JVP organizer. When ordered by security forces to open the door, the suspect fired from the house and security forces returned the fire. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital. One 12-bore shotgun and three cartridges were recovered.

Nine unidentified youths entered the house of Mrs E.B. Dias, a UNP supporter of Ihalamaliduwa, Akuressa police area, threatened the inmates and set fire to the Land Master 72 SRI 4525 [tractor]. They also robbed 12-bore shotgun belonging to Mrs Dias. This is suspected to be a JVP act.

A main electric post had been damaged and put down on the Chilaw road at Puttalam. A poster was found indicating that the electric post was put down as a mark of protest by the Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya against the government conducting the gam udawa [a welfare program].

'At Least 12' Killed in Latest Violence]

BK2806063588 Hong Kong AFP in English 0617 GMT 28 Jun 88

[Text] Colombo, June 28 (AFP)—At least 12 people have died in fresh violence in this troubled island nation, a military spokesman said here Tuesday.

Anti-government Sinhalese gunmen killed a policeman in southern Hambanota District Tuesday and have assassinated four ruling party men in nearby Galle, Dikwella and Dondra since Monday, the spokesman said.

He said six people were killed in separate incidents involving Tamil guerrillas in the troubled Northern and Eastern Provinces Monday.

The killings in the south came barely 24-hours after security forces shot dead a would-be assassin of a junior minister in southern Ratnapura District, the spokesman said.

He said bodyguards fired when the man approaching the junior minister ignored a police warning to stop his motorcycle. A Chinese-made T-56 assault rifle was recovered, but the rider's accomplice escaped.

The would-be attacker was identified as an assassin of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or the People's Liberation Front), he said. The JVP opposes a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact under which New Delhi has some 52,000 troops stationed in the north and east.

The group has been accused of killing nearly 300 ruling party men and leftwingers backing the accord.

In eastern Batticaloa District, the spokesman said fighters of the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), killed two civilians whom they suspected to be informants and a third from a rival rebel group Monday.

The other dead were an LTTE member killed in a gunbattle with Indian troops, a civilian killed in cross fire and a student found shot after being kidnapped by LTTE activists.

New Delhi launched a major offensive October 10 to disarm the LTTE after it rejected the July peace pact and refused to surrender arms. Since then, nearly 500 Indian soldiers and more than 2,000 suspected rebels have died in fighting.